Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

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To find faculty & staff phone numbers and email addresses, please consult the University Directory (http://www.dixie.edu/directory/directory.php).

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Program Description

The Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, in coordination with the Honors Program (http://www.dixie.edu/academics/honors_program.php), serves as a hub for interdisciplinary activities on campus and as a home for both the Integrated Studies baccalaureate degree program and the First Year Experience program.

Integrated Studies Program

The Integrated Studies program at Dixie State University provides opportunities for students to earn a bachelor’s degree which is different from traditional, discipline-specific programs. Students select two emphasis areas from the following: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Communication, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Dance, Earth Science, English, History, Information Technology, Management, Management & Operations, Marketing, Mathematics, Military Science, Music, Psychology, Recreation Management, Sociology, Spanish, Theatre, and Visual Technologies.

Students have the flexibility of developing a major program of study that will uniquely suit their personal and professional goals. It presents the advantages of a liberal arts degree while allowing students to combine basic knowledge and explore relationships between two academic or professional fields. This approach enables students not only to assume greater responsibility and ownership of their major areas of study but also to gain knowledge and skills tailored to a specific career or professional pursuit by expanding their training beyond a traditional, discipline-specific curriculum.

Integrative, interdisciplinary study involves bridging traditional academic boundaries to examine the relationships between various disciplines. This approach challenges students to recognize the distinct methodologies and practices unique to different fields of knowledge and to appreciate the significant ways that knowledge results from interactions among these fields. A successful Integrated Studies program will produce a student who understands that learning, itself, is interdisciplinary and integrative in nature and who can identify significant connections between disciplines and incorporate them into his or her education, work, and life.

Employers value skills such as critical thinking, written and verbal communication, and breadth of knowledge and experience. The Integrated Studies program develops these and other important skills necessary for a competitive job market and for life-long learning. Recent graduates have gone on to pursue graduate degrees in business, law, psychology, school counseling, physical therapy, and medicine and to advance in their professional careers and employment.

Integrated Studies Program Admission Requirements
Students must be in good standing with the university and meet with an Integrated Studies program advisor to be admitted to the program. Students may declare a pre-integrated Studies major before meeting with an advisor; however, they must meet with an advisor and declare their two emphasis areas before they are fully matriculated into the program.

**Integrated Studies Program Student Learning Outcomes**

Graduates of the Integrated Studies program will

- Understand the nature and process of interdisciplinary integration
- Appreciate the unique advantages of integrative research and learning
- Recognize how interdisciplinary-based research provides important knowledge and insight into complex problems and issues
- Understand the nature of disciplinary research and scholarship
- Identify the distinct theories, epistemologies, methods, concepts, and assumptions of two academic disciplines
- Conduct scholarly research and writing in two academic disciplines
- Demonstrate integrative understanding of a topic, problem, or phenomenon from two disciplinary perspectives, as demonstrated in the senior project process

**First Year Experience Program**

The First Year Experience program consists of a selection of courses intended for new DSU students. All degree-seeking students who come to Dixie State University are strongly encouraged to take an FYE course during their freshman year. Transfer students with less than 24 credits are also strongly encouraged to enroll in an FYE course. These courses are designed to help all new students, including recent high school graduates, returned missionaries, veterans, and returning adults to make a successful transition to being a college student.

All FYE courses contain a core curriculum designed to help students:

1. Get to know Dixie State University, including campus resources, policies and procedures, locations of buildings on campus, student rights and responsibilities, and how to get involved in co-curricular activities.
2. Explore degree and career options, including fulfilling general education requirements, exploring career options, and building a graduation plan.
3. Learn college survival skills, such as campus safety, time management, dealing with stress, staying healthy, networking, staying motivated, and handling finances.
4. Acquire the skills and strategies needed for academic success, including using a syllabus, reading college textbooks, communicating effectively with professors, taking good notes, studying effectively, and test-taking strategies.

The FYE program is coordinated from the IAS department; however, FYE courses are taught by many departments on campus. Examples include business (BUS 1001), psychology (PSY 1001), music (MUSC 1001), education (EDUC 1001), nursing (NURS 1001), and biology (BIOL 1001); see the FYE page (catalog.dixie.edu/campusresources/first_year_experience_fye) in this catalog for a complete list of FYE courses. Students who have decided what degree they want to pursue or who would like to find out more about the degrees in a specific department are encouraged to take the FYE course in that department. Taking an FYE course in a specific department does not lock a student into that major. If a student changes his/her major, it is not necessary to take a new FYE course.

Students who do not yet have any idea what degree they would like to pursue should take ASC 1001, which will provide guidance in deciding on a major. Student athletes are required to take PEHR 1001, which will assist them with issues specific to their educational path. International students should take ASC 1000 or ESL 1000 to prepare for a regular FYE course. International Student Services can provide assistance in registering for these courses. All FYE courses are one credit hour, which will count toward electives needed for graduation (exception: ENGR 1000 is 2 credit hours). However, only one FYE course will count towards graduation.

**Course Prefixes**

- ASC, INTS, INDS

**Degrees & Certificates**

- Bachelor of Individualized Studies (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_individualized_studies)
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in Integrated Studies (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies)
Integrated Studies Areas of Emphasis

- Art (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_art_emphasis)
- Biology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_biology_emphasis)
- Chemistry (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_chemistry_emphasis)
- Communication (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_communication_emphasis)
- Criminal Justice (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_criminal_justice_emphasis)
- Dance (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/dance/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_dance_emphasis)
- Digital Design (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_digital_design)
- Earth Science (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_earth_science_emphasis)
- English (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_english_emphasis)
- History (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_history_emphasis)
- Humanities (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/programs/humanities/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_humanities_emphasis)
- Information Technology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_information_technology_emphasis)
- Management (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_business_emphasis)
- Management & Operations (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_management_operations_emphasis)
- Marketing (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_marketing_emphasis)
- Mathematical Sciences (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_mathematical_sciences_emphasis)
- Military Science (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_military_science_emphasis)
- Music (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_music_emphasis)
- Psychology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/psychology/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_psychology_emphasis)
- Recreation Management (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/physicaleducationhealthrecreation/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_recreation_management_emphasis)
- Sociology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_sociology_emphasis)
- Software Development (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_computer_science_emphasis)
- Spanish (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_spanish_emphasis)
- Theatre (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_theatre_emphasis)
- Web Design & Development (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies_web_design_development)

See specific emphasis area requirements on departmental websites

Academic Support Courses

ASC 1000. International Student Academic Success. 1 Hour.
For international students. This course provides international students with the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and awareness needed to adapt to college life at Dixie State University. Topics include: US immigration compliance, cross-cultural adjustment, campus services, academic advisement, safety and emergency issues, academic success, and academic integrity. Prerequisite: Instructor permission. FA, SP.
ASC 1001. FYE: First Year Experience. 1 Hour.
Strongly recommended for entering freshmen and transfer students with 0-24 credits. The course is designed to help students adapt to college life and become integrated into Dixie State University. Students will refine academic skills, create and foster social networks, learn about college resources, and explore different fields of study, degree options, and career opportunities. Open major sections will include information about choosing a major or area of study. Multiple listed with all other sections of First Year Experience (all 1001 courses, ENGR 1000). Students may only take one FYE course for credit. FA, SP, SU.

ASC 2990. Seminar in Academic Support. 0.5-3 Hours.
For students wishing instruction that is not available through other regularly scheduled courses in this discipline. Occasionally, either students request some type of non-traditional instruction, or an unanticipated opportunity for instruction presents itself. This seminar course provides a variable credit context for these purposes. As requirements, this seminar course must first be pre-approved by the department chair; second, it must provide at least nine contact hours of lab or lecture for each credit offered; and third, it must include some academic project or paper (i.e., credit is not given for attendance alone). This course may include standard lectures, travel and field trips, guest speakers, laboratory exercises, or other nontraditional instruction methods. Note that this course is an elective and does not fulfill general education or program requirements. Fees may be required for some seminar courses and instructor permission will be optional at the request of the instructor.

ASC 3001R. Peer Mentoring & Leadership. 1 Hour.
Required for peer mentors in FYE courses. Designed to develop leadership skills in mentors, and increase retention and academic success in students enrolled in FYE classes. Focuses on skills and information needed by effective mentors. Mentors will also be required to attend all sessions of an assigned FYE course, contact individual students, and assist the FYE instructor in course activities. Application and interview are required. Repeatable for a maximum of 4 credits. Prerequisite: Advanced standing and instructor permission.

Individualized Studies Courses

INDS 3800. Individualized Studies Seminar. 3 Hours.
During the concurrent, tandem course of the INDS 3800 Seminar and the INDS 3805 Lab, the assignments cumulatively build toward the final Individualized Academic Plan (IAP) by requiring students to design, implement, evaluate, and modify their individualized major curriculum proposals within thematic concentrations repeatedly, until their professional and personal goals mesh with their own proposed learning outcomes and the general learning outcomes of the Individualized Studies degree, including the four core fluencies of (1) baccalaureate-level written composition skills, (2) basic competency in statistical comprehension, (3) capable public presentation, and (4) collaborative problem solving. Prerequisite: 60 semester credits or an Associate's degree. Corequisite: INDS 3805. FA, SP.

INDS 3805. Individualized Studies Lab. 1 Hour.
While assignments in INDS 3800 will engage students in a continuous process of self-assessment and plan-building, the INDS 3805 Lab, on the other hand, will provide a scaffolding for student advisement. Students will work, through face-to-face individual meetings with a senior interdisciplinary adviser, deeply familiar with the curricula of departments around DSU, to refine and render technically compliant their IAPs. Corequisite: INDS 3800. FA, SP.

Integrated Studies Courses

INTS 1001. FYE: Integrated Studies. 1 Hour.
A First Year Experience course strongly recommended for all entering freshmen and transfer students with 0-24 credits. Provides an orientation to college studies and the college environment for students interested in Integrated Studies and/or a major not currently available. Emphasizing interdisciplinary learning, encourages students to explore themes, issues, and problems in a number of disciplines as a means to developing an integrative, interdisciplinary perspective. Students will refine academic skills, create and foster social networks, learn about college resources, and explore different fields of study, degree options, and career opportunities. Multiple listed with all other sections of First Year Experience (all 1001 courses, ENGR 1000). Students may only take one FYE course for credit. FA, SP, SU.

INTS 3100. Interdisciplinary Studies. 3 Hours.
Required of all Integrated Studies majors. Explores the epistemology, assumptions, research methods, theories, and concepts of each student's emphasis disciplines. Then focuses on the methods, practices, and theories of interdisciplinary study through integrative approaches to complex issues. Students should complete at least two courses in each of their emphases before they enroll in this course. Prerequisite: ENGL 2010 or ENGL 2010A (either Grade C or higher) and instructor permission. FA, SP, SU.

INTS 3801. Travel Study: Japan in Interdisciplinary Perspective. 3 Hours.
Travel Study: Japan in Interdisciplinary Perspective is a course intended for students with an interest in the history and culture of Japan and a desire to engage in rigorous interdisciplinary academic exploration. The purpose of the course will be to learn about the culture of Japan through a comparative investigation of Japanese and United States' societal structures -- including education, government, and religion -- as well as socially shared perspectives -- such as values and beliefs. A three week intensive lecture/discussion course, in which students build general knowledge about Japanese culture, is followed by a ten day travel study in Japan, in which students visit the sites and engage with the culture explored during the preceding three week course. Additional travel fee required. Instructor permission required. SU.
INTS 3900. Interdisciplinary Topics. 3 Hours.
For all interested students; required of Integrated Studies students. Presents a topic, problem, or theme from multiple disciplinary perspectives. Students experience the advantages and necessity of bringing the knowledge, concepts, theories, and methods of multiple distinct disciplines to bear on understanding complex issues and ideas and begin the process of integrating disciplines. Repeatable up to 9 credits as topics vary. Prerequisite: ENGL 2010 or ENGL 2010A (Grade C or higher). FA, SP.

INTS 3930A. Honors Integrated Studies Topics. 3 Hours.
Honors Course. For all interested students; fills INTS 3900 requirement for Integrated Studies students. Presents a topic, problem, or theme from multiple disciplinary perspectives. Students experience the advantages and necessity of bringing the knowledge, concepts, theories, and methods of multiple distinct disciplines to bear on understanding complex issues and ideas and begin the process of integrating disciplines. Research project required which pursues either: 1) a pilot study, such as a lab study or a social science experiment; 2) an experiential learning project, such as fieldwork, social activism, business internship, or similar; or, 3) an original creative piece of work. Prerequisites: INTS 3100 (Grade A) OR admission to the DSU Honors Program OR Honors Program Director permission.

INTS 4890R. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Provides opportunities for majors to engage with an interdisciplinary issue or problem of interest. Projects must be proposed by the student, approved by the department chair, and focused on integrated, interdisciplinary methods and perspectives. All projects will require research and a written product, and students will be expected to meet with the instructor regularly throughout the term. Students may apply no more than 6 credits of Independent Study courses to the Integrated Studies bachelor's degree. Variable credit: 1.0-3.0. Repeatable up to 6 credits subject to graduation restrictions. Prerequisites: INTS 3100; AND Advanced standing. FA, SP, SU.

INTS 4950R. Integrated Studies Senior Thesis. 3 Hours.
This is a minimum two-semester Senior Research and Senior Thesis series that in some cases may extend to three semesters and that provides the culminating experience in the Integrated Studies baccalaureate program. The first semester of this two-semester course focuses on research methods and scholarly writing as students identify project topics and prepare formal proposals for review and approval. In the second semester students develop their thesis topic, theme, issue, or problem and relate their two areas of concentration through careful analysis and creative synthesis, producing a major senior thesis project that exhibits skill in interdisciplinary understanding. Repeatable up to 9 credits subject to graduation requirements. Prerequisites: INTS 3100 (Grade C or higher), senior status, and instructor permission. FA, SP, SU.