

**College of Liberal Arts & Sciences**

**Contact**

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**Admission Requirements**

(In years as established by the college)

A high school diploma with the following specific courses:

- 4 English
- 2 Algebra I & II
- 1 Geometry
- 2 Lab Science (*including biology*)
- 2 History/Social Studies
- 2 Foreign Language (*same language or two years of American Sign Language-ASL*)
- Academic electives (*to equal at least 17 total credits*)

*To ensure current mathematical skills, students should take a mathematics course during their senior year of high school.*

**Major Requirements**

Academic requirements are met in conjunction with a committee of faculty members who are interested in the area of choice. A program of study is designed specifically for each student (see specialized information).

**Program Description**

The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies is a program that allows the academically strong, self-motivated student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to design his or her own major with the help of faculty members from a number of different departments. The program exists to help a student pursue an interdisciplinary major that is not offered by any of the departments of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences but that makes use of the interdepartmental resources of the College.

**Procedure**

The student who decides to pursue an interdisciplinary major must assemble a committee consisting of at least three faculty members from three different departments who will design a course of study for the proposed major. At least two members must be Liberal Arts & Sciences faculty. This course of study must draw on available courses from at least three different departments or programs (at least 2/3 from Liberal Arts & Sciences) and must consist of at least 36 credit hours worth of coursework, 27 of which are to be at the upper-level. The student must also write a rationale for his or her proposed program of study, indicating how this particular program will meet the desired educational goals and also how the program differs from existing programs at the University of Maine.

Majors are also responsible for completing the University General Education Requirements and the BA requirements for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (9 hours of advanced work outside the major area).

**General Education Requirements\***

- ENG 101 College Composition
- 18 credits Human Values & Social Context area (*a single course may satisfy more than 1 sub-category, but a total of 18 credits must be completed*)
  - Western Cultural Tradition
  - Social Context & Institutions
  - Cultural Diversity & International Perspectives
  - Population & the Environment
  - Artistic & Creative Expression
- 2 courses Designated Writing Intensive (*1 must be within the major*)
- 2 courses Biological or Physical Sciences (*must include at least 1 laboratory course*)
- 1 course Ethics (*emphasis on discussion of ethical issues in 1 course or series of courses*)
- 6 credits Mathematics (*including statistics & some computer science, only 3 credits in computer science can count toward this requirement*)
- 1 capstone An approved experience in which the student integrates the components of his or her undergraduate training to perform at a professional level. The capstone experience is usually completed during the senior year in consultation with the student's academic advisor.

*\*All UMaine students must complete these general education requirements, which are counted in the total credit hours required for graduation and may be contained in the Major Requirements previously listed.*

# Specialized Information

## LIMITATIONS

The BA in Interdisciplinary Studies will not allow a student to put together a BA program in any and every conceivable field of study. In order for the proposed major to qualify, the student must be able to put together a committee of faculty members who are interested in the area of choice and who are able and willing to design a program of study in that area within programs of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. If there is not sufficient faculty expertise or interest in the proposed area, the student won't be able to pursue a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies in that area at the University of Maine. Also, the BA in Interdisciplinary Studies cannot be used to modify or substantially reproduce an existing degree program at the University of Maine.

## POSSIBILITIES

Even with the above limitations, the range of possibilities for the BA in Interdisciplinary Studies is extraordinary. Interdisciplinary options might include:

- Religious Studies
- Film Studies
- Popular Culture
- Latin American Studies
- Cultural Studies
- Critical Theory
- Franco American Studies
- Native American Studies

The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies is not for everyone, but it offers an exciting opportunity to the student whose interests cross traditional departmental boundaries.

## Academic Programs 2008-2009

Please refer to the web site (<http://factsheets.umaine.edu/>) for the most updated version of the fact sheets.

This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.