Boise State University
Baccalaureate Degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies
College of Arts and Sciences
Education Building E601
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Program Director of Interdisciplinary Studies:
Dr. Daryl Jones

General Information
Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies are offered by Boise State University and administered by the College of Arts and Sciences.

The purpose of this program is to allow a student to assume responsibility for developing a plan of study with a theme that suits his or her individual interests and particular needs. Students formulate their own plans of study by using both intercollege and interdepartmental combinations of courses.

The program is housed in the College of Arts and Sciences and administered by the program director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. Overseeing the program is a university-wide Interdisciplinary Studies Committee consisting of one member from each academic College. The program director serves as the chair of that committee. Each student in the program has an Advisory Committee composed of at least two but not more than three, faculty members from disciplines making up the specific degree program. The student's Advisory Committee has the responsibility of helping the student select his or her particular course of study and recommends to the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee that the plan of study be accepted. The Interdisciplinary Studies Committee is responsible for approving the members of the student's Advisory Committee, approving the student's plan of study and approving the student's prospectus for the final project.

Admission Requirements
General admission to the University is required but does not guarantee admission to the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. In order to apply for admission to the Interdisciplinary Studies Program, an undergraduate student must satisfy the following prerequisites:

1. Completion of at least 30 credit hours with a minimum GPA of 2.75.
2. Completion of the University’s general English Composition Requirement.
3. Completion with a “C” or better of at least one University core course in each of areas I, II, and III.

An applicant who satisfies these prerequisites will be admitted to the program and allowed to pursue a baccalaureate degree in Interdisciplinary Studies upon having successfully completed the following application process:

1. Consultation with the program director about the intended plan of study and confirmation by the director that the above prerequisites have been satisfied.
2. Selection by the student and preliminary approval by the program director of an Advisory Committee consisting of at least two but not more than three faculty members.
3. Meeting with the selected committee as a whole to discuss and approve the proposed degree plan.
4. Submission of a degree proposal and approval of that proposal by the University Interdisciplinary Studies Committee. The proposal must include the following:
   a. A completed Application for Admission and Personal Data form.
   b. A completed Degree Plan, which lists courses to be included in the proposed interdisciplinary major, which satisfies degree requirements listed below for either the Bachelor or Arts or Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, and which has been signed by all members of the proposed faculty Advisory Committee. The proposed interdisciplinary major must include at least 48 credit hours, 30 of which remain to be completed prior to the date of graduation.
   c. A completed Confirmation of Meeting with Advisory Committee form.
   d. A list of Learning Goals and Objectives, Outcomes, and Assessment Measures.
   e. A two or three-page Statement of Justification, which (1) states intellectual, professional, or vocational reasons for requesting entry into the
program, and (2) explains why established majors at BSU do not meet the applicant’s needs. Please attach a justification of the selection of courses in relation to the conception of the individualized program of study as a whole. The justification should consist of a two to three sentence explanation of that relationship for each class.

**Specific Degree Requirements**

Each program is developed individually according to the student's interests and background but must be intellectually defensible and clearly interdisciplinary in nature. In addition to requirements indicated elsewhere in this document, the following conditions apply:

- Course work must be selected from a minimum of two academic areas.
- Area I Core - at least 3 fields must be represented (12 or more credits)
- Area II Core - at least 3 fields must be represented (12 or more credits)
- Area III Core – mathematics course (3-5 credits), a second field (4 credits), and a third field of the student’s choosing (4 credits)
- B.A. – 9 elective credits chosen from Area I and II disciplines or: B.S. - 9 elective credits chosen from Area II and III disciplines
- Major (including project) (48 or more credits)
- Completion of the above requirements and the approved plan of study, plus electives to total a minimum of 128 semester hours (including at least 40 hours of upper-division work.) All courses included in the major must have a minimum grade of "C" with a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.00. (The student should refer to the BSU Catalog “Obtaining a degree at BSU”.)
- Minor revisions to the plan of study may be approved by the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies upon the recommendation of the student's Advisory Committee chair. Major changes must be approved by the university-wide Interdisciplinary Studies Committee.

**Advisory Committee**

The student's Advisory Committee shall be selected by the student and shall consist of at least two, but not more than three faculty members chosen from disciplines relevant to the student's program of study. The Advisory Committee shall have responsibility for approving the student's proposed program of study and prospectus for the final project, and for recommending acceptance of both of these to the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee.

**Interdisciplinary Studies Project**

A prospectus of the senior Interdisciplinary Studies Project must be submitted to the Program Director by October 1st or March 1st of the semester prior to doing the senior project. The prospectus will be prepared under the direction of the student's Advisory Committee and will state the project's topic, its hypothesis or goal, and the activities to be carried out; it will also clearly reveal how the project is related to the approved plan of study as a whole. The student will enroll for the project during the senior year under the Interdisciplinary Studies number INTDIS-491 (Independent Study). The project prospectus must be approved by the university-wide Interdisciplinary Studies Committee prior to registration for INTDIS-491 (which requires approval by the IDS Program Director). The student is expected to consult on a regular basis with Advisory Committee members during the process of completing the project. The project is also expected to result in a written report or essay, which will be submitted to Advisory Committee members and to the Program Director. Upon completion of the project, the chair of the Advisory Committee will, after consultation with other Advisory Committee members, assign a letter grade.
### Bachelor of Arts

**In Interdisciplinary Studies**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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| E 101-102                | English Composition  
                          See “How to Meet the English/  
                          Composition Requirement” (above)                         | 6       |
| Area I                   | Area I core course in literature  
                          Area I core course in second field  
                          Area I core course in third field  
                          Area I core course in any field             | 3       |
| Area II                  | Area II core course in history  
                          Area II core course in second field  
                          Area II core course in third field  
                          Area II core course in any field             | 3       |
| Area III                 | Area III core course in mathematics  
                          Area III core course in second field  
                          Area III core course in any field             | 3-5     |
| **Area I or II Electives** | These courses do not have to be selected from the approved core list,  
                                      but are to be chosen from anthropology, art, communication,  
                                      economics, foreign language, geography, history, humanities,  
                                      literature, music, philosophy, political science, psychology, social work,  
                                      sociology, teacher education, and theatre arts.  
                                      In completing the project, you must draw critically from two or more disciplines you have studied and you must discuss integrated disciplinary insights you have gained. | 9       |
| INTDIS 491 Project       | In completing the project, you must draw critically from two or more disciplines you have studied and you must discuss integrated disciplinary insights you have gained. | 3       |
| Major                    | At least two fields must be represented. No more than 30 credits from the College of Business or from any one department may be included. | 45      |
| Upper-division electives | Upper-division electives to total 40 credits                        | 0-17    |
| Electives                | Electives to total 128 credits. The number in the right-hand column is an estimated number of remaining elective credits that can be taken at either upper or lower-division. | 2-21    |
| **Total Credits**        |                                                                     | 128     |

### Bachelor of Science

**In Interdisciplinary Studies**

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<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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| E 101-102                | English Composition  
                          See “How to Meet the English/  
                          Composition Requirement” (above)                         | 6       |
| Area I                   | Area I core course in one field  
                          Area I core course in second field  
                          Area I core course in third field  
                          Area I core course in any field             | 3       |
| Area II                  | Area II core course in one field  
                          Area II core course in second field  
                          Area II core course in third field  
                          Area II core course in any field             | 3       |
| Area III                 | Area III core course in mathematics  
                          Area III core course in second field  
                          Area III core course in any field             | 3-5     |
| **Area II or III Electives** | These courses do not have to be selected from the approved core list,  
                                      but are to be chosen from anthropology, biology, chemistry, communication, economics, engineering, geography, geology, history, mathematics, physical science, physics, political science, psychology, social work, sociology, and teacher education.  
                                      In completing the project, you must draw critically from two or more disciplines you have studied and you must discuss integrated disciplinary insights you have gained. | 9       |
| INTDIS 491 Project       | In completing the project, you must draw critically from two or more disciplines you have studied and you must discuss integrated disciplinary insights you have gained. | 3       |
| Major                    | At least two fields must be represented. No more than 30 credits from the College of Business or from any one department may be included. | 45      |
| Upper-division electives | Upper-division electives to total 40 credits                        | 0-17    |
| Electives                | Electives to total 128 credits. The number in the right-hand column is an estimated number of remaining elective credits that can be taken at either upper or lower-division level. | 2-21    |
| **Total Credits**        |                                                                     | 128     |
CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS SEEKING A
BACHELOR OF ARTS OR SCIENCE DEGREE IN
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
College of Arts and Sciences

This checklist has been established to give baccalaureate students a guide to preparing and commencing a degree plan through the Interdisciplinary Studies Program (IDS). The items are listed in the order that a student should complete them. The checklist does not replace the need to communicate initially with the IDS Program Director nor, once admitted to the IDS Program, to communicate regularly with the student’s advisory committee. The student is responsible for adhering to pertinent university policies in completing the bachelor’s degree. This checklist is one tool to facilitate that responsibility. Other important information is available to students through the Boise State University Catalog, the Boise State University Directory of Classes and the Boise State University Student Handbook.

1. Consider your educational goals.
   The IDS Program is an alternative to existing, discipline specific degree programs at Boise State University. You should consider carefully what you want to achieve in your baccalaureate education. Is it preparation for professional training? Are you interested in a field that is still developing and which crosses between disciplines? These are the type of questions that you should define for yourself and you should be able to articulate your answers to someone unfamiliar with you personally.

2. Review the Boise State University Catalog.
   You likely have looked at the Catalog and have some idea about degree programs that exist. Review the catalog again but look for the two or three areas of study that would best serve you in achieving your educational goals. You might begin to note those classes that seem to deal most directly with your goals. As you make these observations, keep a record (for your use in completing application materials) stating why the classes seem to fit your needs.

3. Make an appointment to see the IDS Program Director.
   The meeting with the IDS Program Director is critical as you make your educational plans. It provides you with an opportunity to articulate your educational goals and to state why you want to apply to the IDS Program. It also provides you a chance to tell the Program Director your thoughts about the areas of study you want to pursue and which classes you have already noted that could fulfill your needs. The Program Director can tell you whether your educational goals can be served through the IDS Program. The Program Director will need to see a copy of your transcript, so bring one with you or have one sent from your educational institution’s registrar directly to the IDS office (the transcript verifies whether you meet the admission requirements). Finally, the meeting is a time for you and the Program Director to review the admission and degree requirements.

4. Select an advisory committee.
   The advisory committee provides you critical support in the creation of your degree program and in the pursuit of your degree. The committee is comprised of at least two but not more than three regular Boise State University faculty members who represent the areas of study you will combine in your degree. One person will serve as committee chair. The advisory committee serves the same function that an advisor in a discipline specific program serves. The committee chair is the person you will have the most contact with and who will sign various university documents. That person should be someone you respect, not just for his or her academic expertise but also his or her interpersonal skills. You should rely on the advisory committee to help you formulate your degree
plan. Before submitting the application materials you must meet with the committee as a whole to develop and review the list of classes that will comprise your degree plan. There is a form attached in this packet that must be turned in with the application.

5. **Prepare the IDS Program application materials.**

   The IDS Program office (Education Building, Room 601) provides the necessary forms for application to the program. Make sure you fulfill each of the following:

   a) **Application for Admission and Personal Data**

   b) **Degree Plan** form with the classes you intend to take (with the semester and year you intend to take them) and the signatures of your advisory committee members (indicating their approval of your degree plan)

   c) A typewritten, three page, Statement of Justification. The Statement of Justification is most important. It is a narrative explaining your educational goals; why existing BSU degree programs do not help you reach your educational goals; and, why a combination of two to three different areas of study will facilitate the fulfillment of your educational goals. In preparation of the Statement of Justification, you are encouraged to provide your advisory committee members and the IDS Program Director a draft so that they can help you create the best possible Statement. This narrative is the only personalized part of your application materials. Make it clear, reasonable and persuasive.

   d) Provide an itemized listing of the classes you wish to take. With each class listed, write a two or three sentence explanation that indicates why that class supports your educational goals. (There should be a clear connection between the Degree Plan, the Statement of Justification and the itemization of the classes with explanations.)

   e) A list of Learning Goals and objectives, Outcomes, and Assessment Measures

   f) Transcripts of your college work thus far.

6. **Deliver your application materials before the deadline date.**

   The Interdisciplinary Studies Committee reviews your application materials. The IDS Committee is comprised of eight people representing each college and program at Boise State. The IDS Committee reviews applications twice during the academic year, once in the fall for admission to the IDS program and once in the spring for admission to the IDS program. Application materials for the fall review must be received by 1 October. Application materials for the spring review must be received by 1 March.

7. **Receive the decision on your application for admission.**

   Normally, the IDS Committee will meet within the month and the results of the review will be sent to you by mid-November or mid-April (at the latest). The committee will make one of three determinations on your application: admitted, admitted with provisions (and they will give you specific recommendations on how to resolve the provisions) or denial (with specific reasons given as to why the application was not approved).

8. **Begin your Degree Plan.**

   Once you have been admitted to the IDS Program, you should immediately begin taking the courses listed in your degree plan. Your contact with the IDS Program office from this point will be minimal. But your communication with your advisory committee should continue on a regular
basis. Keep your advisory committee informed of your progress; seek their advice if you foresee difficulties in completing your program as planned; rely upon them, and your advisory committee chair especially, as you would an advisor in a discipline specific degree program.

9. **Plan for graduation.**
You should begin contemplating the graduation process when you are in the next to last year of your degree plan. Here are tasks that you will need to complete:

   a) File an application for graduation with the Registrar’s office.

   b) Meet with your advisory committee to discuss your senior project. The senior project is the culminating activity of your degree. It should reflect the interdisciplinary nature of your degree and it should be a project of some significance. It might be a traditional research paper. It might be a project involving an experiment. It might be an experience, like an internship, that began earlier in your education that will culminate in your senior year and you will provide a written summary of your learning.

   c) Prepare a prospectus for your senior project in the semester prior to graduation. The prospectus must be submitted to the IDS Committee for review in their regular review period (either fall or spring). The IDS Committee must approve your prospectus before you complete the project.

10. **Complete your senior project.**
Enroll in INTDIS 491 “Project” and complete your senior project during the final semester of your senior year. You may have been gathering data, maintaining an experiment or doing other work related to the senior project prior to your senior year but the final year is the time to bring it to closure. After its completion, your advisory committee must have an opportunity to review the project. You may have provided them progress reports before or even shown them some of the results of your work. In any event, during the final semester, meet with your advisory committee to discuss the project and to share with them the results. They, and the IDS Program office, will need a written record of your work (regardless of the type project you undertook). You may examine examples from past students in the IDS Program office. After your advisory committee has met, the chair will need to complete the “Report of Culminating Activity” and file a grade for you.

11. **Submit your Learning Portfolio**
Submit your learning portfolio of Sample work to your Advisory Committee Chairperson for Review.

12. **Participate in commencement ceremonies.**
Once you file an application for graduation and the Registrar indicates that you will be able to complete your degree plan; you are automatically listed as eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. Information about commencement regalia and the event will be sent directly to you.

*CELEBRATE!*