

Important Facts for Students interested in the General Studies or Interdisciplinary Studies Degree Programs

Students who desire to pursue a degree that provides them with a broader background in several areas rather than a more specialized plan of study may choose a General Studies or Interdisciplinary Studies degree at Liberty University. **Students considering these degree programs must complete a multi-step process prior to acceptance in the program.**

1. All applicants must contact the Career Center in DeMoss Hall 1007 to complete Career Direct to determine if the General Studies or Interdisciplinary Studies degree is correct for them. An appointment must be made with a Career Counselor in the Career Center at careers@liberty.edu to review the results of the Career Direct. Based on those recommendations, the student will then be able to proceed with declaring a traditional major or following the steps for the General Studies or Interdisciplinary Studies degree program. (Frequently, new students misunderstand the purpose of the General Studies or Interdisciplinary Studies program and are really undecided in their career choice. Career Direct assessment is a tool which can help determine educational direction.)
2. Schedule classes for their first semester at Liberty as if an “Undecided” student.
3. Request the General Studies or Interdisciplinary Studies Application Packet from Kathy Stolvoort, kmstolvo@liberty.edu **after** beginning classes for the semester.
4. General Studies:
 - 45 hours in the major will comprise the focus of the degree program. Students will choose at least 2, but no more than 3 cognates, with no more than 30 hours and no less than 15 hours from any one cognate. The remaining 75 hours is comprised of the general education requirements and electives.
 - A common starting point for these cognate areas is the requirements for the “Minors” offered by the University.
 - Students are required to complete **30 hours after being accepted into the program**. This may include the courses in which the student is currently enrolled.

OR

Interdisciplinary Studies:

- Students may pursue a B.A. or a B.S. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. The B.A. degree requires 12 hours of language.
- 42 hours in the major will comprise the focus of the degree. Students will choose 2 areas in which to complete 21 hours in each cognate. The remaining 78 hours is comprised of the general education requirements and electives, including two Integrative Courses.
- A 3.0 GPA is required for entrance and continuance in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program.
- Complete 60 hours following admission to the program.

- A final essay synthesizing both cognates with a view to career application; the essay will be evaluated by the LU Research Rubric for Written Communication.
<http://www.liberty.edu/academics/graduate/writing/index.cfm?PID=12268>
5. The student will complete the entire Degree Completion Plan (DCP) and submit electronically to Susan May, smay@liberty.edu, the Professional Advisor for verification. An appointment will be scheduled with Susan May to go over the DCP, review Career Direct results, and make any recommended changes on the DCP.
 6. Upon receiving signed approval from the Professional Advisor and Department Chairs for each cognate, the entire application packet and DCP will be submitted to Mrs. Barbara Sherman, Director, Interdisciplinary/General Studies.
 7. Once the application has been reviewed by the Director, the student will be asked to make an appointment for final acceptance into the General Studies or the Interdisciplinary Studies degree programs.
 8. General Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies applicants should note:
 - The entire process from the time of receiving the application packet to final approval and declaring the General Studies/Interdisciplinary major may take up to 4 weeks.
 - CSER must be current.
 - Applications will only be accepted during the following times:
 - Fall Semester
September 1 - November 15
 - Spring Semester
February 1 - April 15
 - Summer
June 1 - July 15
 - Internships are recommended. This adds a dimension of experience that reinforces a cognate area. The Washington Semester is a potential possibility. For additional information on the Washington Semester, please contact Brian Corley in the Career Center or at mbcorley@liberty.edu.
 - Internship information can also be found on the Career Center Website: <http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=6149>.

Frequently Asked Questions – General Studies

1. Can I create my own major at Liberty?

General Studies is a major that allows you to use two or three areas of specialization (cognates) to complete the General Studies major. Students must choose from the courses that are available at Liberty.

2. How many hours do I need to complete a General Studies degree?

120 is the minimum required. In addition to fulfilling the degree requirements, you must complete 30 hours after being accepted into the program.

3. Why is there no DCP online for General Studies?

The General Studies is an application program and each student's DCP is unique to their specializations (cognates). Requesting an application packet and DCP guidelines will allow you to review a DCP.

Frequently Asked Questions – Interdisciplinary Studies

1. Can I create my own major at Liberty?

Interdisciplinary Studies is a major that allows you to use two areas of specialization (cognate). Students must choose from the courses that are available at Liberty.

2. How many hours do I need to complete an Interdisciplinary Studies degree?

120 is the minimum required. In addition to fulfilling the degree requirements, you must complete 60 hours after being accepted into the program.

3. Why can't I find a DCP online for Interdisciplinary Studies?

The Interdisciplinary Studies is an application program and each student's DCP is unique to their specializations (cognates). Requesting an application packet and DCP guidelines will allow you to review a DCP.

4. Can I change the classes I want to take for my degree program?

If you want to take a different course other than what was listed on your DCP, you will need to complete a course substitution and have it approved by the Department Chair.

5. Is an internship required for the Interdisciplinary Studies degree?

An internship is not required, but it is recommended because it adds experience in an area of specialization and enhances your resume.

6. How do I present my Interdisciplinary Studies degree in a resume?

When presenting your Interdisciplinary Studies degree on your resume, you would use something like this: "Interdisciplinary Studies Degree with Specializations in Business and Communications."

7. Can I have a minor with an Interdisciplinary Studies Degree?

A minor is possible with an Interdisciplinary Studies degree because it has options for elective credits the same as all of the other degree programs at Liberty.

8. What is the difference between an Interdisciplinary Studies degree and a General Studies Degree Program?

A General Studies degree allows you to choose 2 or 3 cognates with a 2.0 GPA and an Interdisciplinary Studies degree allows 2 cognates with a 3.0 GPA. Students with an Interdisciplinary Studies degree frequently go on to graduate studies.