



Request for Substantial Changes to an Existing Program

Complete this form and submit to the [Office of Curricular Affairs](#). You can review the route of approvals this form will go through [here](#). Committees only meet during the academic year and break for summer.

- I. Program Details
 - a) Name (and Degree Type) of Academic Program: Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies (IDSTBA)
 - i) Emphases (if applicable):
 - b) Academic Unit(s)/College(s): Interdisciplinary Studies Program, College of Humanities
- II. Primary Contact and Email: Caleb Simmons (calebsimmons@arizona.edu)
- III. Planned start term for changes: Spring, 2023
- IV. Describe the proposed changes to the program as well as the rationale for making the specific changes and include any relevant supporting data.

Before the recent name change of the Bachelor of General Studies to the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, we surveyed students and alumni to learn what they saw as the strengths and weaknesses of the program. A frequent response was that they wished there were an option for a BA. The reason given was that the BA is a more recognizable degree among employers, compared to a Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) or a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS). During the name change process, Curricular Affairs then brought to our attention that the University has a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies (at one time owned by the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences), but is currently inactive.

We propose changing the structure of the existing BA in Interdisciplinary Studies to make it like the BIS, adding the same degree requirements and concentration and emphasis areas. However, students in the BA program would be required to fulfill a 4th-semester language proficiency requirement (instead of 2nd-semester, as in the BIS).

Interdisciplinary Studies students who come into the university with (or who subsequently achieve) the requisite language proficiency will benefit from graduating with a more widely recognized degree. We also believe a BA will be of interest to potential students at Near You Network campuses and in Arizona Online Campus, helping the University increase the number of Arizonans graduating with a bachelors degree. Students who are already bilingual will easily be able to demonstrate 4th-semester proficiency. Increasing English/Spanish bilingual Hispanic students' access to the more recognizable degree will support the University's HSI mission. Having a BA in Interdisciplinary studies will also help us compete with peer and other institutions, many of whom offer a BA (and sometimes a BS as well) for their degree programs of this sort. For example, offering a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies will align us with ASU, which offers a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies with a large online presence.

According to data supplied by UAIR in June 2022, 1570, students have graduated with a Bachelor of General Studies (the precursor to the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies) since 2017. Of those graduates,

335 (21%) had completed at least 4th-semester second language courses. Because UArizona provides students multiple ways to demonstrate language proficiency beyond just coursework (departmental credit by exam, Advanced Placement scores, IB scores, CLEP scores, etc.), the percentage of students who would be able to graduate with a BA, rather than a BIS, is likely even higher. We believe that making this option available for students who can meet the language requirement will be beneficial for job placement upon graduation.

- V. Comparison Chart – complete the appropriate chart below (delete the unnecessary one) to compare your current requirements to the proposed modifications.

Tools for course lookup: UA Course Catalog or UAnalytics (Catalog and Schedule Dashboard)

UNDERGRADUATE	Existing Major Requirements	Requirements For Modified Major
Name of major, emphasis (if applicable) and degree*	BA Interdisciplinary Studies	BA Interdisciplinary Studies
CIP Code –lookup here or contact the Office of Curricular Affairs for assistance, if needed	30.9999	30.0000
Total units required to complete the degree* (Note: this is for the entire degree, not just the major)	120	120
Upper division units required to complete the degree	42	42
Total CC transfer units that may apply to this degree*	64	75
Foundation courses		
Math	General	General
Second Language	4th semester	4th semester
General Education		
Introduction to General Education course (1 unit)		Introduction to General Education course (1 unit)
GE Exploring Perspectives: Choose one course from each domain. (12 units total)		Artist (1 course) Humanist (1 course) Natural Scientist (1 course) Social Scientist (1 course)
GE Building Connections: Choose three courses (9 units) from two or more disciplines and/or perspectives.		GE Building Connections: Complete 3 courses, 9 units total.
GE Capstone course (1 unit)		GE Capstone course (1 unit)
Pre-major? (Yes/No)	No	No
List any special requirements to declare or gain admission to this major (completion of specific coursework,	None	None

minimum GPA, interview, application, etc.)		
Minimum # of units required in the major (units counting towards major units and major GPA)	63	55
Minimum # of upper-division units required in the major (upper division units counting towards major GPA)	36	36
Minimum # of residency units to be completed in the major	18	18
Required supporting coursework (courses that do not count towards major units and major GPA, but are required for the major). Courses listed must include prefix, number, units, and title. Include any limits/restrictions in place/needed (house number limit, etc.). Provide email(s)/letter(s) of support from home department head(s) for courses not owned by your department.	N/A	N/A
Major requirements. List all major requirements including core and electives. If applicable, list the emphasis requirements. Courses listed count towards major units and major GPA. Courses listed must include prefix, number, units, and title. Mark new coursework (New). Include any limits/restrictions in place/needed (house number limit, etc.). Provide email(s)/letter(s) of support from home department head(s) for courses being added and are not owned by your department. Recommend ordering requirements in the same order as your advisement report.	<p>LASC 250 (3) Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies)</p> <p>LASC 498 (1) Senior Capstone</p> <p>Area 1 21 units/12 UD</p> <p>Area 2 21 units/12UD</p> <p>Area 3 21 units/12UD</p>	<p>IDS 396A (3) Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies)</p> <p>IDS 498 (1) Senior Capstone</p> <p>Concentration</p> <p>3 areas at 9 units each (27 total units)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts, Media and Entertainment (AMENT) • Economy and Industry (ECI) • Global and Intercultural Understanding (GIU) • Science, Technology, Health and Society (STHS) • Social Behavior and Human Understanding (SBHU) • Sports and Society (SPS) • Study of the US and the American Experience (SAE) <p>Emphasis</p> <p>24 units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts, Media and Entertainment (AMENT) • Economy and Industry (ECI) • Global and Intercultural Understanding (GIU)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science, Technology, Health and Society (STHS) • Social Behavior and Human Understanding (SBHU) • Sports and Society (SPS) <p>*This Theme can be the same as one of the selected Concentration Themes.</p>
Internship, practicum, applied course requirements. (Yes/No). If yes, provide description.	No	No
Senior thesis or senior project required (Yes/No). If yes, provide description.	No	No
Additional requirements (provide description)	N/A	N/A
Minor (optional or required)	Optional	Optional

* These changes require Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) approval.

VI. Faculty impact – will new faculty hires be required to deliver the new, proposed curriculum?

No new hires are needed. The students who would be able to take advantage of the opportunity to attain a BA instead of a BIS are already graduating having taken courses from across campus. Students typically fall into two groups: 1) transfer students who have already earned a large number of units that they want to apply towards a flexible degree, or 2) students who have encountered a barrier in their current major and are unable to complete the program or are unable to complete without extending their studies beyond their financial means. Students in either category typically come to the program late in their college careers and are able to complete within one to three semesters, so they have already earned a substantial number of units in other colleges (or from other institutions) before switching to Interdisciplinary Studies.

A recent analysis of data provided by UAIR shows that over the last five years, Bachelor of General Studies students graduated having taken courses from every academic college on Main Campus except for Veterinary Medicine. The biggest contributors have been the colleges previously affiliated as the Colleges of Letters, Arts and Science, which housed the program until CLAS was disestablished in 2019. Since that time, COH has been supporting the program.

VII. Budgetary impact – indicate new resources needed and source of funding to implement proposed changes. If reallocating resources, indicate where resources will be taken from and the impact this will have on students/faculty/program/unit.

No new resources will be needed.

VIII. Required signatures

Program Director (print name and title): Caleb Simmons; Director, Interdisciplinary Programs

Program Director/Main Proposer signature: 
Date: 11/2/22

Dean (print name): Kimberly Jones, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

Dean's signature: 

Date: 9/15/22

UG: For use by Curricular Affairs (for majors):

Committee	Approval date
APC	
Undergraduate Council	
U-CAAC	