

BACHELOR OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (B.I.S.)

*Effective Fall 2020, this program is being phased out and has a 3-year teach out plan. More information can be found here (<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/acadaff/phased-out-programs/>).

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) degree focuses on the development of broad intellectual abilities and skills rather than a large concentration within a traditional academic discipline. This degree option may be of special interest to:

1. students seeking a degree tailored to specific interests not accommodated in an established MWSU major;
2. students who plan, upon graduation, to enter graduate or professional school; and
3. students transferring into MWSU with an AS or AAS degree.

Students who choose this degree option will work with three faculty members to determine the courses that will constitute their BIS-degree programs. This three-person faculty committee will be selected by the chairperson of the department with the 24-credit concentration in consultation with the student. The committee must include:

1. one representative from the department with the 24-credit concentration;
2. one representative from the department with the 12-credit concentration; and
3. one other faculty member.

The faculty member from the department of the 24-credit concentration will serve as the chairperson of the committee, will be responsible for scheduling necessary meetings, and will submit the BIS-degree proposal to the college dean. BIS-degree program proposals must be submitted to the college dean responsible for the department offering the 24-credit concentration. Submission deadlines are: the first Friday in October, the last class day of the Fall Semester, the Friday before Spring break, and the last class day of the Spring Semester. Prior to receiving final approval by the college dean, a committee composed of the Dean of the Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Dean of Professional Studies, and a total of four faculty, with at least two representatives from each college, will review and approve all proposed degree programs. Notice of program acceptance will be returned within three weeks of the submission deadline, prior to the next scheduled pre- registration or regular registration session.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
General Studies		
Students must complete General Studies courses (http://catalog.missouriwestern.edu/undergraduate/university-information/academic-standards-regulations/baccalaureate-degree/#bachelor-general-studies)		42-47
Major Requirements		
Select at least one course from each of the following areas:		21
Area One - Writing:		
COM 345	Nonverbal Communication	

ENG 301	Advanced Composition
ENG 385	Creative Writing: Prose
ENG 386	Creative Writing: Poetry
Course officially designated as Writing Intensive	
Area Two - Analytical and Critical Thinking:	
COM 334	Argumentation and Debate
ENG 232	Language Awareness
PHL 219	Reasoning and Argumentation
PHL 301	Ancient Philosophy
PHL 304	Modern Philosophy
BIO/CHE/PHL 308	History and Philosophy of the Natural Sciences
Area Three - Computer Literacy and Technological Innovation:	
ETC 326	Document Design
BIO/ENG/HUM/PSC/PSY 314	Technology and Society
MUS 210 & MUS 410	Introduction to Music Technology and Topics in Computer Music Applications
Course officially designated as Computer Intensive	
Area Four - Appreciation and Tolerance for Diversity:	
ENG 355	Literature in English: 1860-1945
ENG 357	Literature in English : 1945-Present
HIS 370	History of Latin America
PSC 200	International Politics
PSY 260	Cross-Cultural Psychology
REL 360	Selected Topics in Religion
REL 370	Selected Topics in Comparative Philosophy
SOC 400	Racial and Ethnic Relations
Area Five - Ethical and Moral Issues:	
BIO 207	Human Ecology
COM 304	Media and Society
COM 314	Persuasion
PHL 312	Contemporary Political Philosophy
PHL 330	Topics in Ethical Theory
PHL 435	Foundations of Professional Ethics
PSC 310	Political Theory
REL 361	War, Peace, & Religion
REL 365	Selected Topics in Peace & Conflict Studies
Area Six - Aesthetic Appreciation:	
ENG 441	Shakespeare
PHL 335	Aesthetics and the Arts
THR 367	History of Theatre
Applied Music or Music Ensemble ¹	
Area Seven - Personal Growth and Welfare:	
ALH 352	Applied Nutrition
COM 305	Interpersonal Communication
COM 324	Small Group Communication
FIN 310	Investments

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PSY 210	Psychology of Personal Adjustment
SOC 360	Sociology of Health, Illness and Medicine
Concentrations	
First Concentration ²	24
Second Concentration ³	12

- ¹ All three credit hours must be with one instrument or the same ensemble.
- ² This concentration requires 12 upper-division credit hours in one discipline (one course must be an in-depth study of methods of investigation in that discipline). No more than 2 courses used to satisfy the 7 Areas may be used in either concentration. Students may substitute an A.S. or A.A.S. degree for this concentration.
- ³ This concentration requires 9 upper-division credit hours from a second discipline or 12 credit hours of one foreign language. No more than 2 courses used to satisfy the 7 Areas may be used in either concentration.

Graduation Requirements

1. Earn a minimum of 120 credit hours (100 level and higher, maximum of 6 CED credit hours applicable).
2. Earn a minimum of 45 credit hours in upper-division courses. Lower-division transfer courses accepted as meeting upper-division departmental course requirements cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.
3. Earn 30 of the last 45 credit hours at MWSU in institutional coursework (exclusive of credit by examination).
4. Participate in required departmental and campus wide assessments.
5. Earn an overall GPA of at least 2.00 and a major GPA of at least 2.0.
6. Fulfill the Missouri Constitution requirement.
7. Successfully pass the Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement exam.