INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Contact Information
Interdisciplinary Studies
http://curricula.unc.edu/students/interdisciplinary-studies
3018 Steele Building, CB# 3504

James Thompson, Program Director
uthomp@email.unc.edu

Introduction
Students interested in an interdisciplinary degree program not covered by any degree-granting department or curriculum should apply to the program director for interdisciplinary studies.

In the past, students have designed their own majors in such varied fields as medieval studies, food studies, arts management, medical geography, healthcare policy, medical humanities, cultural studies, behavioral finance, urban studies, documentary studies, computational physics, and ethnobotany.

Advising
Appointments may be made with James Thompson. Inquiries may be made through e-mail (uthomp@email.unc.edu). Students should come prepared with a draft of their major proposal. Students are strongly encouraged to meet regularly with their advisor and review their Tar Heel Tracker each semester.

Graduate School and Career Opportunities
Since IDST can provide a broad background in the liberal arts, graduate study in a number of academic disciplines is possible. Students are encouraged to contact the graduate or professional school to which they wish to gain admission to determine the specific undergraduate academic requirements necessary for admission. An IDST major is generally not recommended for students planning graduate study in the sciences, but many students combine majors aimed at medical, legal, or business careers with an IDST major.

Career opportunities for IDST majors are as varied as the reasons students give for selecting the major.

Major

• Interdisciplinary Studies Major, B.A. (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/interdisciplinary-studies-major-ba)

IDST–Interdisciplinary Studies

Undergraduate-level Courses

IDST 89. First-Year Seminar: Special Topics. 3 Credits.
Content varies each semester.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

IDST 101. Topics in Teaching: The Sciences. 1 Credit.
Teaching as an intellectual discipline, including its impact on society. Students experience teaching, study how people learn, reflect upon their own learning, and discuss the role of education in society. Pass/Fail only.
Grading status: Pass/Fail.

IDST 104. It Only Looks Easy: The Art and Science of Teaching. 1 Credit.
Teaching as an intellectual discipline, including its impact on society. Students experience teaching, study how people learn, reflect upon their own learning, and discuss the role of education in society.
Grading status: Pass/Fail.

IDST 184. Research beyond Academia. 1 Credit.
Researchers from the Triangle region and beyond will discuss their research to provide students with exposure to research opportunities and careers outside academia. This course meets a requirement for the Carolina Research Scholars Program.
Grading status: Pass/Fail.

IDST 190. Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies. 1-3 Credits.
Special topics course. Content varies each semester.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 9 total credits. 3 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

IDST 194. Modes of Inquiry. 1 Credit.
A seminar in which faculty discuss their own work. Students will learn how topics are defined and investigated and how undergraduates can engage in discovery. Pass/Fail only.
Grading status: Pass/Fail.

IDST 201. Increasing Diversity in STEM Research. 1 Credit.
Required of Chancellor’s Science Scholars and open to others by permission of the instructor. The course will explore the broad range of STEM research available at UNC-Chapel Hill, and will address issues of developing more diversity in the STEM research workforce nationwide.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit. 4 total credits. 4 total completions.
Grading status: Pass/Fail.

IDST 296. Course Correspondent Project. 1 Credit.
Program develop activities to supplement instruction in on-campus programs. Supervised by the on-campus instructor, students file reports on the sites, language, and culture of the country in which they are studying.
Grading status: Pass/Fail.

IDST 301. American Colleges and Universities: Junior Transfer Seminar. 3 Credits.
This course will examine American colleges and universities from a variety of perspectives, ranging from the individual student’s experience to the role of higher education in larger social systems. The course will survey diverse institutions in American higher education. Students will compare the unique needs of these institutions as well as the populations they serve.
Gen Ed: SS, EE-Field Work.
Grading status: Letter grade.

IDST 396. Independent Study. 1-3 Credits.
Independent project to be arranged with an instructor.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit. 6 total credits. 6 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Advanced Undergraduate and Graduate-level Courses

IDST 496. Independent Study. 1-6 Credits.
Permission of the department. Special reading and research for graduate and undergraduate students on a specific interdisciplinary topic under the direction of a faculty member.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit. 12 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

IDST 691H. Senior Honors Thesis. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. Required of all senior honors candidates.
Gen Ed: EE-Mentored Research.
Grading status: Letter grade.

IDST 692H. Senior Honors Thesis. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. Second semester of senior honors thesis; required of all senior honors candidates.
Gen Ed: EE-Mentored Research.
Grading status: Letter grade.