

# INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Greenquist 216/218 • 262-595-2609 • Keyword: *Interdisciplinary Studies*

**Degree Offered:**  
Bachelor of Arts.

**Director:**  
Gurnack, Ph.D.

**Career Possibilities:**  
The interdisciplinary studies major and leadership certificate provide organizational expertise for use in public and private sector employment settings. Recent program graduates work as managers, directors, and supervisors at multi-national and regional manufacturing, nonprofit, service and media organizations.

## Department Overview

The interdisciplinary studies major is a flexible program whose breadth ensures coverage of several behavioral and social-science disciplines. The major is designed to meet the needs of students whose interests and career goals go beyond the boundaries of a single discipline. Interdisciplinary studies is a major where critical thinking and the ability to identify and inter-relate meaning among a variety of broad areas and disciplines are connected to practical workplace settings and issues. Students are independent and self-directed adults with clear educational and career goals. For those interested in developing or refining their leadership skills, a separate 12-credit (four-course) certificate in leadership is available.

## Requirements for the Interdisciplinary Studies Major (30-45 credits)

There are three concentration options within the interdisciplinary studies major: organizational studies, social sciences studies, and women's and gender studies.

The major is offered through four 10-week class modules each year. Classes meet in spring and fall, two modules each semester. The modules are scheduled as follows:

Fall	I.	Mid July – Early October
	II.	Early October – Late December
Spring	III.	Early January – Mid March
	IV.	Mid March – Early June

## Requirements for the Organizational Studies Concentration (36-37 credits)

The organizational studies concentration is designed to help students understand the structures, operations, and functions of complex organizations in both the public and private sectors. Faculty members from a number of academic disciplines including sociology/anthropology, economics, psychology, geography, history, political science, communication, philosophy, and business provide students with a multidimensional, multi-perspective, comprehensive understanding of complex organizations in our society.

- I. Foundational Courses (9 credits)
  - ISTD 345 Organization Theories ..... 3 cr
  - Plus 6 credits of 100- or 200-level work in the behavioral and/or social sciences, one of which may be:
    - ISTD 200 Introduction to Leadership..... 3 cr
- II. Statistics Course (3-4 credits)
  - ISTD 250 Consumer Statistics..... 3 cr
  - Or one course from the following: SOCA 250, POLS 200, PSYC 250, or QM 210 (consult with instructor regarding prerequisites).
- III. Concentration Courses (21 credits, with no more than 9 credits from any one area).
  - Other courses in the UW-Parkside catalog, as well as ISTD 490, may count for concentration credit. Pre-approval from adviser is required.

### History/Political Science/Geography:

GEOG 340	Political Geography .....	3 cr
GEOG 360	Urban Geography.....	3 cr
HIST301/		
ETHN 302	Race and Ethnicity in the U.S. ....	3 cr
HIST/		
ETHN 333	Contemporary American Immigration .	3 cr
POLS 202	Public Policy.....	3 cr
POLS 250	Introduction to Public Administration ..	3 cr

### Economics/Business:

ECON 380	The Labor Market.....	3 cr
HRM 343	Human Resource Management.....	3 cr
MGT 349	Organizational Behavior.....	3 cr
MGT 447	Management Techniques .....	3 cr

MIS 320	Management Information Systems .....	3 cr
MKT 350	Marketing Principles .....	3 cr

**Psychology/Sociology:**

ISTD 300	Human Resources Issues.....	3 cr
ISTD 346	Interorganizational Relationships.....	3 cr
PSYC 307	Cross-Cultural Psychology .....	3 cr
PSYC 330	Interviewing .....	3 cr
SOCA 304	Skill Development in Leadership .....	3 cr
SOCA 306	Research in Community Needs .....	3 cr
SOCA 326	Social Gerontology .....	3 cr
SOCA 372	Technology and Society .....	3 cr
SOCA 373	Formal Organization .....	3 cr

**Communication:**

COMM 285	Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution .....	3 cr
COMM 303	Organizational Communication.....	3 cr
COMM 365	Intercultural Communication .....	3 cr
COMM 385	Strategies for Constructive Dialogue...	3 cr
ENGL 204	Writing for Business and Industry .....	3 cr
ISTD 492	Practicum in Leadership.....	3 cr

IV. Capstone (3 credits)

ISTD 498	Senior Seminar Project.....	3 cr
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## Requirements for the Social Science Studies Concentration (33-45 credits)

The distinguishing feature of the second concentration option is the independently designed theme. Working with the program adviser, students design a course of study built around a particular theme or problem in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will be accepted as interdisciplinary studies majors and allowed to proceed with an approved, independently designed theme after that program of study has been drawn up in consultation with the program adviser.

Program requirements for this concentration are as follows:

Introductory and methodology courses should be chosen as consistent with the approved, independently designed theme.

I. Introductory Courses (9 credits):

Three introductory courses from the following list, chosen from two different disciplines:

COMM 107	Communication and the Human Condition .....	3 cr
COMM 108	Media and Society.....	3 cr
ECON 101	The American Economy .....	3 cr
GEOG 100	Physical Geography and the Environment .....	3 cr
GEOG 105	Contemporary Human Geography.....	3 cr
GEOG 110	Introduction to Geography- World Regions.....	3 cr
HIST 102	The United States, Reconstruction to Recent Times.....	3 cr
HIST 120	Modern Europe 1815 to the Present ..	3 cr
POLS 100	American Politics.....	3 cr

POLS 104	Introduction to International Relations...	3 cr
POLS 105	Political Beliefs .....	3 cr
PSYC 101	Psychological Science.....	3 cr
SOCA 100	Introduction to Anthropology .....	3 cr
SOCA 208	Introduction to Archaeology.....	3 cr
WOMS 110	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies .....	3 cr

II. Methodology Courses (3 credits):

At least one methodology course from the following list is required.

GEOG 300	Geographic Methods.....	3 cr
HIST 250	Sources and Methods in History.....	3 cr
ISTD 250	Consumer Statistics .....	3 cr
POLS 200	Research Methods and Sources .....	4 cr
PSYC 300	Research Methods .....	3 cr
QM 210	Business Statistics I.....	3 cr
SOCA 250	Statistics for the Social Sciences.....	4 cr
SOCA 295*	Social Science Research Methods .....	2 cr

\* This is a 2-credit course. Students who opt to complete it must consult with the interdisciplinary studies adviser with regard to the additional required credit.

III. Scope of Coverage (12 credits)

At least one 3-credit course from four of the following disciplines is required: communication, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, sociology/anthropology, or women's studies. The purpose of the scope of coverage requirement is to ensure the interdisciplinary nature of the program. Courses identified as meeting the requirements of the scope of coverage section of the major may also be counted under sections I, II, and IV.

IV. Theme (18 credits)

The 18 credits must revolve around or be related to some central theme or issue which the student has identified within the social and behavioral sciences. Some examples of themes chosen by current students and approved by the review committee are as follows:

- The American Worker in Adaptation to Change
- Poverty and Social Welfare
- Crime and Psychological Problems Among Children
- Illiteracy in America
- Ethnicity and Political/Social Patterns in the U.S.
- Politics and Mass Communication
- Health Care
- The American Worker
- Poverty and Social Welfare
- Crimes and Psychological Problems Among Children
- Illiteracy in America
- Ethnicity and Political/Social Patterns in the U.S.
- Politics and Mass Communication
- Environment Policy
- Public Education

The 18 credits of the theme must meet the following requirements:

- A. 15 credits must be at the 300/400 level.
- B. No more than 12 credits can be from one single department.
- C. No more than 6 credits can be earned by directed or independent study.
- D. Introductory and methods courses cannot count toward the 18 required credits in the theme.

V. ISTD 498 Senior Seminar Project (3 credits)

## Requirements for the Women's and Gender Studies Concentration (30 credits)

To earn a major in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in women's and gender studies, students must complete 30 credits in approved women's and gender studies courses distributed as follows:

### I. Introductory Courses (6 credits):

WOMS 110 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies ..... 3 cr

AND

Feminist Theories (Appropriate classes offered in English, history, philosophy, communication, psychology, etc., with approval of program adviser.)

### II. Concentration Courses (9 credits):

Select 9 credits from at least two of the following three areas.

#### A. Humanities and Art

Approved women's and gender studies courses from English, art, communication, theatre arts, humanities, music, philosophy, and modern languages. Examples include:

COMM 315 Communication and Gender ..... 3 cr  
 COMM 463 Gender, Race & Class in Media ..... 3 cr  
 ENGL 269 Studies in Women Writers ..... 3 cr  
 ENGL 367 Studies in American Ethnic Literature: (Depending on Topic)..... 3 cr  
 ENGL 417 Studies in British Literature: British Women Novelists..... 3 cr  
 ENGL 464 Studies in Cultural Patterns: Gay and Lesbian Literature..... 3 cr  
 ENGL 469 Studies in Women Writers ..... 3 cr  
 PHIL 290 Special Topics in Philosophy: Feminism in Philosophy ..... 3 cr  
 THEA 215 Gender and Sexuality on the Stage and Screen ..... 3 cr  
 WOMS 112 Women in Literature ..... 3 cr  
 WOMS 215 Gender and Sexuality on the Stage and Screen ..... 3 cr

#### B. Social Sciences

Approved women's and gender studies courses from sociology, history, international studies, political science, psychology, economics, and business. Examples include:

CRMJ 366 Women, Crime, and Criminal Justice.. 3 cr  
 HIST 236 Women in Modern Society ..... 3 cr  
 MGT 446 Global Issues in Management..... 3 cr  
 POLS 203 Women, Power, and Politics..... 3 cr  
 POLS 301 Sexuality and Politics..... 3 cr  
 PSYC 230 Psychology of Human Sexuality..... 3 cr  
 PSYC 280/380 Psychology of Gender ..... 3 cr  
 SOCA 213 Gender and Society ..... 3 cr  
 SOCA 290 Special Topics: LGBTQ Studies..... 3 cr

#### C. Natural Sciences

Approved women's and gender studies courses from biology, chemistry, physics, environmental studies, and health exercise science and sport management. Examples include:

BIOS 103 Human Biology..... 3 cr  
 HESM 321 Women's Health Issues ..... 1-4 cr  
 HESM 330 Sport in Society..... 3 cr  
 SOCA 379 Society and Environment..... 3 cr  
 WOMS 250 Women in Science ..... 3 cr

III. Electives (12 credits of approved courses selected with program adviser)

IV. One of the following courses (3 credits):

WOMS 494 Internship in Women's and Gender Studies ..... 1-3 cr  
 WOMS 495 Women's and Gender Studies Seminar.. 3 cr  
 WOMS 497 Women's and Gender Studies Senior Thesis ..... 3 cr  
 WOMS 499 Independent Study ..... 1-3 cr

## Requirements for the Leadership Certificate (12 credits)

The leadership certificate provides a curriculum that combines conceptual and theoretical frameworks with opportunities to apply those concepts and theories in real-world situations. Students who complete the certificate program will have an enhanced understanding of the personal qualities, interpersonal dynamics and social patterns that influence leadership efforts. They will also have the opportunity to hone specific leadership skills such as self-assessment and public speaking; be exposed to other modes of communication; identify and assess resources; work in diverse settings; and evaluate and reflect on their own situation. They will develop their own leadership style and learn how to work through civic engagement.

All courses will be offered in weekend format, and scheduled so that students are able to complete the certificate within a calendar year.

Required Courses (6 credits):

ISTD 200 Introduction to Leadership..... 3 cr  
 ISTD 492 Practicum in Leadership ..... 3 cr

And select two classes from list below (6 credits):

- ISTD 300 Human Resource Issues ..... 3 cr
- COMM 285 Introduction to Conflict Analysis  
and Resolution ..... 3 cr
- SOCA 304 Skill Development in Leadership ..... 3 cr
- SOCA 306 Research in Community Needs ..... 3 cr

## Courses in Interdisciplinary Studies (ISTD)

### 200 Introduction to Leadership ..... 3 cr

*Prereq: None. Freq: Yearly.*

This course is designed to introduce students to the principles of leadership from an interdisciplinary theoretical perspective and then give them the opportunity to practice some of those principles. It will also introduce skills, such as self-assessment, communication strategies, understanding group dynamics and working in coalitions, setting goals while remaining flexible, and managing conflict, which will be developed more fully in subsequent courses and in the practicum.

### 250 Consumer Statistics ..... 3 cr

*Prereq: Math through high school algebra. Freq: Fall.*

Consumer statistics is an overview course. It covers a variety of numerical analysis applications while avoiding using words like numerical analysis. This course is intended to help students become knowledgeable consumers of statistical reports, not producers.

### 290 Special Topics ..... 1-3 cr

*Prereq: Consent of instructor. Freq: Occasionally.*

Special topics in interdisciplinary studies will be examined. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

### 300 Human Resource Issues ..... 3 cr

*Prereq: SOCA 100 or 101 or consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.*

This course identifies a theoretical model of human resource management; the diversity issues of the workplace; issues such as external staffing, training and development of employees; compensation; labor relations; and employee security, health and safety.

### 307 Project Planning ..... 3 cr

*Prereq: ISTD 200. Freq: Yearly.*

This course examines the processes involved in initiating, planning, executing, controlling and closing projects. Students obtain skills in leadership, team building, coaching, planning, performance appraisal and staff management with the focus on achieving project goals. Students learn how to design organizational and communication structures that best use the resources available.

### 308 Project Time and Cost Management ..... 3 cr

*Prereq: ISTD 200, 307. Freq: Yearly.*

Students learn the concepts of project scope, time, cost, quality and risk management along with the concepts of earned value, variance analysis and resource constraints. Students develop the skills necessary to bring projects in on time and within budget.

### 345 Organization Theories ..... 3 cr

*Prereq: None. Freq: Alternate years.*

An introductory survey of theories of large-scale, complex organizations that have their origins in a variety of fields and disciplines including sociology, public administration, educational administration and business administration. A major goal of the course is to develop the ability of students to apply these theories to the analysis of particular kinds of organizations including private businesses, government agencies, not-for-profit service organizations, hospitals, religious organizations, prisons, the military and schools.

### 346 Interorganizational Relationships ..... 3 cr

*Prereq: None. Freq: Alternate years.*

This course has two major emphases: (1) The social and cultural context in which organizations exist and function. (2) The ways in which that context (i.e. the environment) leads to changes in the structure of organizations. The course deals with the conditions under which organizations are created, grow, establish relations with their environments, develop strategies for survival and (sometimes) fail.

### 367 Latinos(as) and the Law ..... 3 cr

*Prereq: CRMJ 101 or POLS 100; or consent of instructor.*

*Freq: Occasionally*

Introduces and examines experiences Latinos (as) encounter with and within the U.S. criminal justice system, as well as related international and transnational issues. A range of theoretical frameworks will be utilized, including socio-ecological, political, and psychological. Cross-listed with CRMJ 367/POLS 367.

### 390 Special Topics ..... 1-3 cr

*Prereq: Consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.*

Special topics in interdisciplinary studies will be examined. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

### 490 Special Topics ..... 1-3 cr

*Prereq: Junior/senior standing or consent of instructor.*

*Freq: Yearly.*

Special topics in interdisciplinary studies will be examined. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

### 492 Practicum in Leadership ..... 3 cr

*Prereq: ISTD 200 and two other leadership courses or consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.*

This course is designed to support students as they complete a major leadership project as a capstone experience to the leadership certificate. They will have the opportunity to discuss ideas, problems and successes with others doing similar projects. At the completion of their own project, they will reflect on their own experiences and fine-tune and improve their leadership style and specific leadership skills.

### 498 Senior Seminar Project ..... 3 cr

*Prereq: Senior standing and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.*

This capstone course will apply knowledge and concepts of organizational studies gained from the core requirements (methods, statistics and theory) and the four divisions of the concentration. Students will engage in research and communication projects which will act as a culmination of their course of study, with each student producing an independent project and thesis showing his/her understanding of organizational studies in the public and/or private sector.

### 499 Independent Study ..... 1-3 cr

*Prereq: Consent of instructor and program director.*

*Freq: Fall, Spring, Summer.*