

Additional information may be obtained from:

*UM-St. Louis Admissions Office
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63121-4400
(314) 516-5451
<http://www.umsl.edu/>*



University of Missouri-St. Louis

Interdisciplinary Studies

Why UMSL?

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) provides a flexible, individualized program of study for the self-directed adult learner. It is intended for students who have unique educational goals that cannot be met by any other UM-St. Louis degree program. Each degree program is developed by the student, with advising by faculty and a professional Student Services Coordinator. It is open to all students, including those enrolled in the Pierre Laclède Honors College

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree enables a student to combine courses from at least three different disciplines, taken at the intermediate or advanced level. This allows students to study a subject from multiple academic perspectives (for example, Urban Studies, including history, sociology, and economics), or to combine courses for a specific career goal (for example, Public Relations, including business, psychology, and media studies). The student may also receive credit for professional internships, research internships, or community service, under the supervision of a UM-St. Louis faculty member. Some BIS degree programs may be completed entirely with evening courses.

Career Outlook

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree meets the same standards of academic quality as all other UM-St. Louis degree programs, and is therefore a good preparation for employment or graduate study. In some fields, a student may need additional post-degree coursework in order to qualify for graduate admission, licensure, and certification. Some BIS students who are already employed will use the degree to advance their careers and qualify for promotion. Employers in the St. Louis region recognize the value of higher education, and employees of virtually every major corporation in the area attend courses at UM-St. Louis

General Information

Admission to the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program requires a separate application form, and must be approved by the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee. This committee includes representatives from all academic divisions of the campus (Arts and

Sciences, Business, Education, Fine Arts and Communication, Nursing, and Optometry), and staff representatives from Academic Affairs, Admissions, and the Center for Student Success.

The BIS requires the student to define a personalized Area of Study of at least 36 credit hours, no more than 15 hours of which can be in one department. All courses in the Area of Study must be at the 2000-level or above, and 18 credits must be earned at UM-St. Louis after the student is admitted to the BIS program. Up to six hours may be taken as faculty-supervised professional internship, research internship, or community service, which must be approved by the faculty member in advance. In order to be admitted to the BIS, students must also have a campus grade point average of 2.0 or above.

Application

After being admitted to the University, students must file a separate BIS Application Form, available on-line at www.umsl.edu/admission/majors or by requesting one from the College of Arts & Sciences, Room 301 Lucas Hall, 314-516-5501. The application needs to include a listing of the courses proposed for the student's individualized Area of Study, and a Statement of Educational Purpose (two pages) that outlines and justifies the proposed interdisciplinary program in relation to the student's academic interests and/or career goals. All interested students should seek advisement from the BIS Coordinator before submitting an application. Contact the BIS Coordinator in the College of Arts & Sciences, Room 301 Lucas Hall, 314-516-5501.

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Toll-free in MO and IL 618 area code:

1-888-GO-2-UMSL

Career Services: (314) 516-5111

BIS Coordinator: (314) 516-5501

<http://www.umsl.edu/>

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity.