Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS)

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program at the University of Missouri at St. Louis allows students to design their own majors, in an interdisciplinary area that does not exist as an academic degree or department at the University.

For more information, consult the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Website: [www.umsl.edu/interdisciplinarystudies/](http://www.umsl.edu/interdisciplinarystudies/)

Or contact the BIS Advisor:
Ms. Linda Guetterman
303 Lucas Hall, UMSL
314-516-5501
guettermanl@umsl.edu

Welcome to UMSL
The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree (BIS) provides a flexible, individualized program of study for the self-directed learner. The Area of Study is developed by each student, with the help of the BIS Advisor and the approval of the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee.

The degree has its own professional BIS Advisor, who will help students design their Area of Study and will provide ongoing advisement throughout the student’s career at UMSL.

The BIS degree is supervised by the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee, composed of faculty and staff members who have academic and professional expertise in many different fields.

Sample Programs

Interdisciplinary Studies students have designed individualized majors in areas as varied as art therapy, international studies, gender studies, environmental studies, advertising, public relations, nonprofit management, employee training and development, event planning, exercise science, film studies, gerontology, trauma studies, pre-optometry, and more.

Area of Study

The Area of Study consists of at least 36 semester hours of graded credit at the 2000 level or above, including 9 hours at the 3000 or 4000 level, in at least three different subjects. The Area of Study must include no more than 15 credits in any one subject. Fifteen credits must be earned after the student is admitted to the BIS program.

Career Outlook

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree meets the same standards of academic quality as all other UMSL degree programs and is a good preparation for graduate study or employment. Some BIS students who are already employed will use the degree to advance their careers and qualify for promotion.

Professional or Service Internship and Independent Research

Up to 6 hours may be earned for professional internship, service internship, or independent research. The projects or activities must be formulated by the student and carried out under the supervision of a faculty member and approved by the BIS Advisor.

Admission to the BIS Program

Candidates for the BIS degree must complete an application for admission to the program. Applications must be approved by the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee. Applications are available on the program website, www.umsl.edu/interdisciplin arystudies/