Interdisciplinary Studies

The major in interdisciplinary studies allows students to combine two or more of the disciplines in Arts and Sciences to develop a major focused on a particular topic or intellectual theme. Therefore, courses proposed for this interdisciplinary major must have coherence and build toward a rich exploration of a clear set of principles or questions.

Students design their own academic programs with the assistance of a faculty advisor, who must be a full-time faculty member in Arts and Sciences, and in consultation of the Assistant Dean of Academic Advising, who oversees the program. Students write a proposal explaining the theme or topic to be explored. The proposal must include a list of courses and an explanation of how each course relates to the major’s themes. This proposal must be presented no later than the second semester of junior year, and must be approved by the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. Once approved, students may not change the proposed requirements without additional approval.

Major Requirements

• All courses for the major must be taken for a grade. Students must earn a C- or better in all courses. Courses taken S/U or P/F do not count.
• Students must earn at least 45 credits in the completion of the major.
• At least 21 credits must be completed at the 300-level or higher and may not be counted toward another major or minor.

Distribution Requirements

• Students must complete 30 credits that meet distribution requirements outside the major.
• Students must complete no fewer than 12 credits of Natural Sciences, Quantitative Studies, or Engineering courses either in the major or as an elective.
• Students must complete no fewer than 12 credits of Humanities courses either in the major or as an elective.
• Students must complete no fewer than 12 credits of Social and Behavioral Sciences courses either in the major or as an elective.