

99-13

July 8, 1999

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (code 3-0405)

This new degree was recommended by the Academic Senate on February 4, 1999, concurred by the President on March 23, 1999 and approved by the Office of the Chancellor on June 25, 1999.

The Interdisciplinary Studies major for the bachelor of science degree allows selected students to engage in an individualized baccalaureate program when legitimate academic and/or professional goals cannot be accommodated by existing academic programs or combinations of such programs (i.e., majors, minors, certificates). The Interdisciplinary Studies major adheres strictly to the University's mission statement and consists of a closely correlated program of study in two or more departments developed in conference with faculty members from the respective departments who have the academic and professional expertise necessary to support the individualized course of study.

The Interdisciplinary Studies major is not a means of bypassing normal graduation requirements nor a means by which students may seek to graduate who have failed to gain admission to impacted programs or to complete a degree major in which they are currently enrolled. Consequently, a candidate must apply for approval of an Interdisciplinary Studies major when:

1. At least one full year of academic work (30 units) remains to be completed to meet minimum graduation requirements.
2. At least 2/3 of the upper-division (300-400) units in the proposed course of study remain to be completed at the time the application is submitted for approval.
3. The GPA in the current major is 3.0 or better. Exceptions to this rule will be made on a case-by-case basis.

The Interdisciplinary Studies program of study must be justified by legitimate career, academic, and /or professional goals commensurate with the broader mission of the University in baccalaureate education. Interdisciplinary Study majors are considered on a case-by-case basis. Approval is determined on the basis of the academic merit of the proposed course of study, the proposal rationale, the applicant's potential for successful completion of the program, and on the ability of the University to support the proposed program. Goals should be carefully reviewed before proceeding with an Interdisciplinary Studies major.

Procedures

1. To prepare for the initial interview:
 - A. Make an appointment with the Interdisciplinary Studies Director to discuss eligibility for the program.
 - B. Prepare a written proposal, eight pages in length, identifying your educational goals and objectives, your career goals and objectives; explaining why these cannot be met through an existing major; and listing the courses at CSULB appropriate to your goals.
2. Present your written statement for initial review to the Interdisciplinary Studies Director from whom guidelines, recommendations, and forms necessary for the following steps may be obtained if the proposal is determined to be promising.
3. Seek out a faculty advisor from each discipline in which substantive course work will be undertaken. These faculty must have the expertise appropriate to the Interdisciplinary Study you propose, must find merit in your proposal, must agree to meet with you and all other faculty adviser to develop a program of study, and must agree to continue to act as your program advisors.

4. Arrange a meeting of the faculty advisors for the purpose of developing the list of specific courses that will constitute the Interdisciplinary Studies degree program. Any modification of this program after it has been officially approved by the Interdisciplinary Studies Director requires the concurrence of all faculty advisors and must be the result of consultation with them, usually at an advisory meeting. Faculty advisors sign the official Interdisciplinary Studies Major Program form and any subsequent Program Addendum forms.

5. Submit the Interdisciplinary Studies Major Program, signed by the faculty advisors, to the departmental chairs of each department in which substantive work is projected. Their signatures on your program form indicate they have reviewed its contents, approved the proposed program, and are granting you the same priority status for enrollment in courses in their departments as that accorded departmental majors.

6. Return your program with all signatures to the Interdisciplinary Studies Director along with your typed Interdisciplinary Studies proposal and transcripts from all schools attended, including a current set of transcripts from CSULB. Completed programs must be approved by the Interdisciplinary Studies Program Director and will be filed in the Interdisciplinary Studies Office and the Records Office. Be advised that pending final approval of your Interdisciplinary Studies Program you should proceed with the course work for your previously declared major or with General Education and elective courses. You should delay taking courses that will count only toward the fulfillment of your Interdisciplinary Studies Program until the semester following formal admission into the major.

Requirements

1. An Interdisciplinary Studies Program consists of a maximum of four lower-division courses (100-200) and of a minimum of 36 units of upper-division courses (300-400) totaling a minimum of 48 units in the program.

2. An Interdisciplinary Studies Program is based on a thematically cohesive core of classes involving significant work in more than two disciplines. A rationale must accompany the program and be signed by the faculty advisors when the program is submitted to the Interdisciplinary Studies Program Director for approval.

3. Interdisciplinary courses (1) taken to satisfy General Education requirements may be double-counted to meet Interdisciplinary Studies Program unit requirements, if the program consists of more than 48 units of credit.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 1999

Code: 3-0405

College: 94

Career: UG

IPEDS (Major) ERSS: 49993

IPEDS (Degree) ERSD: 49993