Interdisciplinary Studies

Welcome
Increasing your scope of learning just got a lot easier! The Associate degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS) allows students select two areas of concentration, based on individual interests, and academic and professional goals. Those wishing to use the AIS degree as a foundation for a bachelor's degree oftentimes select concentration areas based on what they wish to pursue at the bachelor's level.

The AIS has become more attractive in recent years, because the degree is so flexible, yet focused. The AIS allows students to work with their advisor in creating a degree program that both fulfills graduation requirements and focuses on bringing multiple disciplines together to research a specific problem or area.


"I chose social and behavioral sciences as one of my concentrations, because I knew that I eventually wanted to pursue a bachelor's in sociology, but I also wanted to earn something on my way to a bachelor's, because I needed a better job. So, this degree was perfect for me! I loved the classes, and the flexibility it gave me to earn my associate's entirely online." - Christie, 2012 AIS graduate

Studying Online
Online classes require self-discipline and motivation, especially since you do not have a specific time and place established for class meetings. Familiarizing yourself with what’s required of an online student and the many tools available to support online learners is key!

Distance Learning 101 provides guest access to Blackboard, along with helpful information ranging from pre-enrollment through registration. It is designed to walk you through the different processes involved with admissions, financial aid, advising and registration. The Student Resource Portal provides one-click access to academic support and student resources across campus. The link to each area is provided below:

Distance Learning 101: www.wku.edu/online/dl101/
Student Resource Portal: www.wku.edu/online/srp

In addition to online support, which is accessible in these areas, there is also a team of distance learning professionals available to answer questions, listen to your concerns and provide solutions. You can reach us at learn.online@wku.edu.
Admission Requirements

Prior to taking an online course at WKU, you must be admitted. Online students follow the same process as face-to-face students. The first step is to complete an online application for admission, which is available at http://www.wku.edu/admissions. Next, you will need to submit your supporting materials to the Office of Admissions (requirements for supporting materials are determined by your student classification, please see below for more specific information):

- **Beginning Freshman** (student who has not attended a college or university after high school graduation): An official high school transcript and ACT or SAT scores.
- **Transfer** (student who has attended one or more colleges or universities since high school graduation, but has not attended WKU): An official transcript from each college attended. If fewer than 24 semester hours of college credit has been earned, your high school transcript and ACT or SAT scores are also required. Please note: Transcripts without the official seal or those marked unofficial cannot be used.
- **Readmission** (student who has attended WKU since high school graduation): An official transcript from each college attended, other than WKU.
- **Visiting** (student who is seeking a degree from another institution, but wishes to take a class at WKU to fulfill requirements at home school): A letter of good standing from the registrar’s office at your home school is required.

Supporting documentations should be mailed to the following address:

Office of Admissions  
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11020  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1020

Admission Application Deadlines:

Kentucky and Out-of-State Residents
- Fall Semester: August 1  
- Spring Semester: January 1  
- Summer Term: May 1

International Students
- Fall Semester: April 1  
- Spring Semester: September 1  
- Summer Term: March 1

Please note: Deadlines are often flexible, depending on the program of study. If you are considering applying after the suggested deadline, we encourage you to check with the appropriate academic department or call 270-745-5173.

Degree Program Requirements

The associate degree in interdisciplinary studies requires completion of **60 credit hours** (21 hours of general education/colonnade requirements; 27 hours distributed among two areas of emphasis; 12 hours of electives, which may be applied to earning an undergraduate certificate or can be completed with general electives). A minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average is required for graduation. AIS degree candidates must fill out a degree program, which serves as an agreement between the University and the student regarding the course
requirements for the AIS degree, and is valid for five years from the date approved by the college dean. Once the form is complete, students may email it directly to the AIS advisor, Merrall Price at merrall.price@wku.edu.

Students who have previously earned 60 hours of credit with a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or above in all higher education course work completed at Western Kentucky University and have met all other requirements for the degree, may apply as candidates for the AIS Degree. If, upon evaluation of their transcripts, such students meet all the requirements for the degree, the degree will be awarded at the next graduation ceremony.

**Academic Requirements**

*General Education/Colonnade Curriculum (21 hours required)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Education for AIS Students</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Colonnade Program for AIS Students</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cat. A1: Organization Communication of Ideas</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>College Composition (WC)</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 100: Freshman English</td>
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<td>Oral and Written composition must be</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approved category A1 elective</td>
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<td>ENG 100: Freshman English and</td>
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<td>COMM 145 or other approved course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cat. B: Humanities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Arts and Humanities (AH)</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any class from Category BI or BII</td>
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<td>Literary Studies (ENG 200 or approved course) and An approved course from AH Explorations list</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Social and Behavioral Sciences (SB)</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cat. C: Social and Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>World History (HIST 101 or HIST 102)</td>
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<td>Two classes from Category C</td>
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<td>and An approved course from SB Explorations list</td>
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<td>Quantitative Reasoning (QR) or</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Cat. D: Natural Sciences and Mathematics</td>
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<td>Natural &amp; Physical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any class from Category DI or DII (Science or Math)</td>
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<td>MATH 109/116 OR other approved course</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OR approved Natural &amp; Physical Science course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category E: World Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approved Category E elective</td>
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**Total Hours Required General Education** 21  **Total Hours Required for Colonnade** 21

**Schedule of Classes and General Education/Colonnade Information**

Students who are ready to plan their degree program should refer to http://www.wku.edu/online/online-classes.php for more information regarding the General Education/Colonnade program. The schedule of classes is also accessible from that page, and allows students to see past, current and upcoming course offerings.
Areas of Concentration (27 hours required)

The AIS program allows great customization of the degree based on each student’s academic and professional goals, and personal interests. Students must select two areas of emphasis from the list of approved categories. An overall total of 27 credit hours is required, with a minimum of 9 hours in each of the two selected concentrations. Additionally, students must complete 12 credit hours of electives, which may be strategically selected to build upon the student’s goals and objectives.

AIS Degree: Approved Areas of Emphasis

Arts
Organization and Communication of Ideas

Business
Science

Education
Social and Behavioral Science

Health
Social Justice and Equity Studies

Humanities
Technology

Electives (12 hours required)

In addition to the 21 hours of general education/colonnade requirements, and 27 hours in concentration areas, students are required to complete 12 hours of electives. Electives can be selected from any college level course. Students may use elective hours to further build their expertise in a specific area by earning an undergraduate certificate or to explore areas of interest.

Please note the following additional information:

- The AIS cannot be filed as a second degree program; as a result, students applying for concurrent or secondary associate’s degrees must file the AIS as their primary degree program.

- Developmental courses do NOT count toward the total number of hours earned.

Financial Aid Eligibility

Financial Aid includes grants and loans for educational purposes. The government requires the student to file a form online to the government agency for this purpose, which is called FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov to apply. Once that form is completed and filed, the student will receive an email from WKU about the status. All financial aid comes through the WKU Student Financial Aid office and they communicate mostly through email. The email will explain all the grants and/or loans that are available to the student and how to receive the money.

Nearly all students are eligible for some form of financial assistance. In fact, over 90% of the students who applied for financial aid in recent years received an award offer. Every effort is made to assist you and your family in obtaining the resources necessary to meet the difference between the total cost of attending Western Kentucky University and your ability to contribute toward your education.

If you would like to apply for financial assistance (loans, grants, scholarships, veteran’s benefits) the first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please refer to the Financial Aid Guide for additional information and complete instructions.
Please keep in mind, student must maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue to qualify for financial aid. For additional information on receiving, and keeping your financial aid, please refer to the WKU Financial Aid website to review the complete policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress at http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/sap.php.

Financial Aid and Scholarship Resources

- WKU Scholarship Information, including scholarships for transfer students: http://www.wku.edu/scholarship/
- WKU Financial Aid Information: http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/
- Student Aid: Types of aid, who qualifies and how to apply: https://studentaid.ed.gov
- Scholarships: How to find them, how to apply, types of scholarships: https://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships

Career Resources and Average Salary Information

Resources to aid in finding a major right for you, as well as the most current information regarding average salary, job outlook and the most common positions within the field, may be found on the websites below:

- Find Occupations, Salary Information and Job Outlook: http://www.onetonline.org/find/career
- Major and Career Search: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/majors-careers
- Identifying A Career Based on Personal Interests: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers
- What Can I do with this major: http://www.wku.edu/career/wcidwtmajor.php

Contact Information

Program Advisor: Dr. Merrall Price
Email: merrall.price@wku.edu

WKU Online Support: Nikki Roof
Email: learn.online@wku.edu
Phone: (270) 745-5173
Toll-Free: (888) 4WKUWEB / (888) 495-8932