

UMSL 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 UMSL 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 UMSL 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 UMSL 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 UMSL.

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 UMSL 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.