Bachelor of Arts in interdisciplinary studies

Program information

College	Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters		
Department or school	Interdisciplinary Studies - Arts and Letters		
Degree abbreviation	B.A.	**CIP code**	24.0101
Program website	Enter program web address (e.g., www.fau.edu/program-name)		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies at Florida Atlantic University prepares students to examine complex issues through multiple disciplinary perspectives, integrating knowledge across the humanities, social sciences, arts, and related fields. Through critical inquiry, interdisciplinary problem solving, and applied learning, students develop the skills to understand diverse perspectives, address real world challenges, and contribute meaningfully to their communities and the broader world.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The program supports the university's mission by providing students with an interdisciplinary education that develops critical thinking, problem solving, and adaptable skills applicable to diverse career pathways, supporting opportunity and economic mobility. By integrating perspectives across the humanities, social sciences, arts, and related fields, the program empowers students to generate meaningful knowledge, address real world challenges, and contribute to their communities.

About the program

The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies allows students to explore subjects across the humanities, social sciences, arts, and related fields through concentrations that reflect their academic interests. Students develop a plan of study that connects different disciplines while building research, communication, and analytical skills. The program is a great fit for students whose interests span multiple fields and who want to prepare for a variety of careers or graduate study.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Graduates will be able to explain foundational concepts, theories, and historical developments within Interdisciplinary Studies and demonstrate proficiency in identifying, evaluating, and using scholarly sources and appropriate research methods to investigate discipline-specific questions.

How students show it

Faculty will assess annotated bibliographies, research summaries, and interdisciplinary research projects for students' understanding of key academic concepts, ability to identify credible scholarly sources, and appropriate application of research methods.

Where it is assessed

IDS 3890 Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☐ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☐ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Graduates will be able to produce clear, logically organized academic writing that presents focused arguments, supports claims with relevant evidence, and communicates ideas effectively for an intended audience and purpose.

How students show it

Faculty will assess an interdisciplinary research paper, written reflections in the form of discussion board posts, and research summaries for clarity of expression, logical organization, argument development, effective use of supporting evidence, and adherence to academic writing conventions.

Where it is assessed

IDS 3890 Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

- ☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments
- ☒ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal
- ☒ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Graduates will be able to evaluate complex problems by comparing different perspectives, develop original approaches to addressing challenges, and apply their knowledge to propose informed and practical solutions.

How students show it

Faculty will assess interdisciplinary final projects for students' ability to evaluate different perspectives, identify strengths and limitations of various approaches, and develop well-reasoned conclusions and practical solutions to complex problems.

Where it is assessed

IDS 3890 Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar

D. Other Skills: Professional Development and Career Readiness

Additional outcomes the program commits to, such as ethics, leadership or professional practice

Graduates will be able to identify and articulate the transferable skills gained through their interdisciplinary education and demonstrate professional readiness by developing career materials that communicate their academic experiences, qualifications, and professional goals.

How students show it

Faculty will assess résumés, cover letters, and written reflections for students' ability to identify relevant academic and professional skills, communicate their qualifications to prospective employers, and connect their interdisciplinary education to future career opportunities.

Where it is assessed

IDS 3890 Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

The program plans to assess student learning through interdisciplinary research projects, annotated bibliographies, written reflections, final projects, and career readiness assignments completed in IDS 3890 Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar. Faculty will review selected student work to evaluate achievement of the three core learning outcomes in disciplinary knowledge and research, written communication, and critical thinking, as well as the additional outcome in professional development and career readiness. Findings will help faculty identify areas for improvement and guide future program development.