

Interdisciplinary studies

www.goshen.edu/interdisc

Broadening horizons

Goshen College offers an interdisciplinary major because it gives students the freedom to design an academic program that either serves their particular interests or allows them to prepare for a specific career requiring a broad range of knowledge. For example, a student may plan to incorporate classes in business, computer science and family business for an eventual career in a family computer business or a student planning to teach as part of a service assignment might study language, TESOL and education.

Students choosing an interdisciplinary studies major select three academic departments in which Goshen College offers either a major or minor. Interdisciplinary majors must complete 15 credit hours in each department, and students may complete a senior seminar and practicum in either one department or in two different departments.

Traditional academic disciplines and majors are not necessarily isolated entities; knowledge from different areas overlap and can be mutually enhancing. Most departments already acknowledge this relationship and require students to take courses in related areas.

Some majors and minors are, in fact, built upon an interdisciplinary model. Notable examples include education, nursing, social work, natural science, business, peace studies, environmental studies, multimedia communication and intercultural studies. Many graduate programs, including journalism and law schools, acknowledge the need for a broad base of study and interdisciplinary studies majors often plan on continuing their education at the graduate level.

Positions held by GC interdisciplinary studies

administration
church ministries
city planning
community development
journalism
education
environmental organizations
business owner
lawyer
professor

Recent examples of interdisciplinary majors

Art, graphic design, multimedia communication
Bible and religion, intercultural studies, peace studies
Biology, environmental studies, economics
Business, art, intercultural studies
Business, multimedia communication, music
Communication, peace studies, intercultural studies
Computer science, English, art
Economics, women's studies, psychology
English, Spanish, TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages)
History, writing, intercultural studies
Sociology/anthropology, political science, peace studies
Psychology, sociology/anthropology, health and safety
Theater, Bible and religion, music

Faculty

The associate dean serves as the academic adviser for most interdisciplinary majors.

Thomas J. Meyers, Ph.D.; associate dean, director of international education and professor of sociology; B.A., Goshen College, 1975; M.A., 1978, Ph.D., 1983, Boston University.