

# Interdisciplinary Studies Program

## MAJOR:

University Major (BA or BS)

## MINORS:

University Minor

Some degree programs or subject areas/topics may be more adequately studied through two or more disciplines. In this case two or more departments and/or disciplines may collaborate to offer a program or to support a program designed primarily by the student (*the university major*) through interdisciplinary coursework.

The interdisciplinary studies program offers the university major.

Minors are available in American culture studies, women's and gender studies, and university minor.

Specific interdisciplinary (INT) courses are offered on a regular basis, while others occur as a need arises (*see each semester course schedule*).

## UNIVERSITY MAJOR

Students with well-defined goals and interests which cut across several disciplines are encouraged to consider a university major. This major allows students to individualize a program of study that provides an exploration of diverse fields of study, the challenge of independent work, and possible off-campus experiences. The major may lead to a bachelor of arts (BA) degree or a bachelor of science (BS) degree.

### Baccalaureate Degree and Residency Requirements

All requirements for an undergraduate degree are listed under academic policies and regulations in the undergraduate introductory section in this catalog. These requirements include a graduation requirement of at least one course in religion or theology.

### General Education Requirements

The 42 credit hours of general education requirements (GER) are presented in the undergraduate academic information section in this catalog. A course that meets a general education requirement may also meet a course requirement for the major or a course requirement in another discipline.

### Requirements for the University Major

A university major must have a clearly defined unifying principle. This principle must be either a special career goal (*e.g., consumer affairs*) not provided in an existing major or a special interest that crosses disciplinary lines (*e.g., American studies*).

The student pursuing a university major must complete no fewer than 60 credit hours and no more than 80 credit hours in the chosen disciplines. A minimum of 50 percent of the credit hours in the university major must be taken at Fontbonne. A minimum of 24 credit hours must be completed at the upper division level and must represent more than one discipline.

At the time of the submission of a proposal for a university major, the student must have a Fontbonne minimum cumulative grade point (GPA) average of 2.5 and must maintain this GPA through degree completion.

### Procedures for Applying for a University Major

A student interested in pursuing a university major must:

1. Present a proposal of study to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs who, after review and discussion with the student, will submit the proposal

- to the chair of the undergraduate academic committee. The proposal must include the name of the major, goals and objectives, specific courses (those completed and those to be completed) for the major, a timeline for completion, and a recommendation for a primary and a secondary advisor. One advisor must represent one of the disciplines included in the university major. The chair of the department of interdisciplinary studies, if not identified as the primary advisor, will serve as one of these advisors.
2. Submit the proposal of study prior to the completion of 64 credit hours (this total may represent Fontbonne coursework, transfer coursework, or a combination of both).
  3. Receive approval from the undergraduate academic committee for the university major and for the primary and secondary advisors for the major.
  4. File the approved program of study with the primary and secondary advisors and with the registrar's office.

The student will be awarded a degree upon the successful completion of the university major and all degree and graduation requirements.

## MINOR IN UNIVERSITY MINOR

Students with well-defined goals and interests which are not met within the current offerings of minors are encouraged to consider a university minor. As with the university major, the university minor must have a clearly defined unifying principle. This principle must be either a special focus (*e.g., consumer affairs*) not provided in an existing major or a special interest that crosses disciplinary lines (*e.g. consumer affairs*).

A student pursuing a university minor must complete 18 credit hours in the chosen discipline. A minimum of 50 percent of the credit hours in the university minor must be taken at Fontbonne. A minimum of 9 credit hours must be completed at the upper division level and must represent more than one discipline.

A student interested in pursuing a university minor must: Construct a proposal of study with the assistance and approval of their major advisor, and present the proposal of study to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs for review. After discussion with the student, the director will submit the proposal to the chair of the undergraduate academic committee. The proposal must include the name of the minor, goals and objectives, specific courses (those completed and those to be completed) for the minor, a timeline for completion.

1. Submit the proposal of study prior to the completion of 94 credit hours (this total may represent Fontbonne coursework, transfer coursework, or a combination of both).

2. Receive approval from the undergraduate academic committee for the university minor.
3. File the approved program of study with the major advisor and with the registrar's office.

The student will be awarded a degree upon the successful completion of the university minor and all degree and graduation requirements.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES COURSES

### INT 105 Mission Core I: Culture and the Common Good (3 credits)

This course will explore the meaning of the term "the common good" in the context of different traditions. The course will draw examples from a wide variety of disciplines and subject areas. Students are challenged to explore their roles as individuals, as members of multiple cultures or faiths, and as global citizens in promoting the "common good." The course also includes a component designed to assist first-year students in effect learning and study strategies. FA

### INT 106 Strategies for Self-Directed Learning (1 credit)

This course is designed to aid students in being successful self-directed learners at a collegiate level. The course content is focused on developing new ways of analyzing, integrating, and applying learning strategies to various learning situations that encourage academic success. FA SP

### INT 207 Leadership through Social Change (3 credits)

This course is designed to provide insight, participation, and discussion pertaining to leadership. The course will also provide opportunities for students to identify their own diverse leadership abilities and style as well as to continuously reflect on their own leadership development. Instruction will utilize both curricular and co-curricular approaches in the classroom. SP

### INT 293 Special Topics (1-3 credits)

A first-year, second-year level course offered to supplement regular course offerings. Offered on a periodic or one-time-only basis.

## LIBRARY COURSES

### LIB 199 Information Literacy in Higher Education (1 credit)

Students will learn how to evaluate information, synthesize ideas, recognize the value of collaboration, and think critically about their use of information in personal, social, and academic contexts. Through a series of interconnected learning modules, the course will address the wide range of skills needed to understand and ethically engage in all areas of an evolving information culture. FA, SP, SU