

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, A.A. (ABINGTON)

Begin Campus: Abington

End Campus: Abington

Program Description

The objectives of the Multidisciplinary Studies major are to broaden the student's understanding, interests, and skills; to help the student become a more responsible, productive member of the family and community; and to offer a degree program with sufficient electives to permit some specialization according to the student's interests or career plans. Multidisciplinary Studies is a complete two-year degree major. However, graduates who later seek admission to baccalaureate degree majors may apply baccalaureate credits toward the new degree.

In addition to a wide variety of baccalaureate majors offered at University Park campus, graduates of the Multidisciplinary Studies major may qualify for admission to the baccalaureate degree majors in Behavioral Sciences, Elementary Education, Humanities, or Public Policy offered at Penn State Harrisburg. Or they may qualify for any of a large number of baccalaureate degree majors offered by Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, in business, the liberal arts, and sciences.

Entrance to Major

Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA to change to this Associate degree after admission to the University.

Degree Requirements

For the Associate in Arts degree in Multidisciplinary Studies, a minimum of 60 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	21
Electives	15
Requirements for the Major	30

6 of the 21 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 6 credits of General Education GWS courses.

Requirements for the Major

The required credits of General Education and Requirements for the Major must be baccalaureate-level courses. For students intending to seek admission to a baccalaureate program upon graduation, it is recommended that most, if not all, of the courses be at the baccalaureate level. For those students who will seek a bachelor of arts degree upon graduation from Multidisciplinary Studies, it is strongly recommended that a world language be taken since admission to a bachelor of arts program in the College of the Liberal Arts requires one college-level course, or the equivalent, in a world language.

Courses that will satisfy the arts, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, and quantification requirements are defined on the Multidisciplinary Studies checklist, which may be obtained from the College of the Liberal Arts associate dean for undergraduate studies

at the University Park campus or from any Multidisciplinary Studies representative at other locations.

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CAS 100	Effective Speech	3
ENGL 15	Rhetoric and Composition	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
ENGL 202A	Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences	
ENGL 202B	Effective Writing: Writing in the Humanities	
ENGL 202C	Effective Writing: Technical Writing	
ENGL 202D	Effective Writing: Business Writing	
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits in any course designated as arts		3
Select 3 credits in any course designated as humanities		3
Select 3 credits in any course designated as social and behavioral sciences		3
Select 3 credits in any course designated as physical, biological, or earth sciences		3
Select 9 credits in any one of the following areas: arts, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences and quantification, and world language skills ¹		9

¹ If world language courses are chosen, it is recommended that these courses be in one world language sequence.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all associate degree students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/associate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 3 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 3 credits

Knowledge Domains

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Note: Up to six credits of Inter-Domain courses may be used for any Knowledge Domain requirement, but when a course may be used to satisfy more than one requirement, the credits from the course can be counted only once.

Exploration

- **Any General Education course (including GHW and Inter-Domain):** 3 credits

University Degree Requirements

Cultures Requirement

3 credits of United States (US) or International (IL) cultures coursework are required and may satisfy other requirements

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 60 degree credits must be earned for a associates degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 60 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Program Learning Objectives

- To express ideas effectively orally and in writing.
- To enhance students' appreciation of cultural diversity and global/international perspectives.
- To provide students with a broad foundation in arts and sciences.
- To enable students to select a concentration of 9 credits in one area.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary

academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

Abington

Pierce Salguero

Program Chair, Integrative Arts
1600 Woodland Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-881-7826
salguero@psu.edu

Altoona

Jennifer E. Slusser

Academic Adviser, Program Specialist, Division of Undergraduate Studies

Smith Building C112
3000 Ivyside Park
Altoona, PA 16601
814-949-5084
jzg3@psu.edu

Berks

Thomas Lynn

Program Coordinator, Associate Professor
Franco 117
Reading, PA 19610
610-396-6298
BKLettersArtSci@psu.edu

Brandywine

Paul deGategno

Professor of English
25 Yearsley Mill Road
Media, PA 19063
610-892-1465
pjd15@psu.edu

DuBois

Deborah Gill

Associate Professor of Spanish
1 College Place
220 Swift
DuBois, PA 15801
814-375-4783
djg25@psu.edu

Erie

Patrick Cosby, Ph.D.

Associate Teaching Professor of History
154 Koche Center
Erie, PA 16563
814-898-6970
phc14@psu.edu

Fayette

Lindsey Simon-Jones

Associate Professor

2201 University Drive
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456
724-430-4249
lmj133@psu.edu

Harrisburg

J. Craig Haas, M.A.
Program Coordinator
Olmsted Building, W356
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6723
jch19@psu.edu

Hazleton

Charles Dewald
Program Coordinator, Multidisciplinary Studies
Butler 203
76 University Drive
Hazleton, PA 18202
570-450-3558
cxd35@psu.edu

Mont Alto

Megan Lundy
DUS Academic Adviser
1 Campus Drive
Mont Alto, PA 17237
717-749-6055
mol7@psu.edu

New Kensington

Ruth Ann Herstek
Academic Adviser
Academic & Career Success Center
3550 Seventh Street Road
New Kensington, PA 15068
724-334-6094
rah32@psu.edu

Schuylkill

Nicole Andel
Teaching Professor, English and Humanities
200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-6088
nikki@psu.edu (amv5@psu.edu)

Scranton

Paul Perrone
Senior Instructor
13 Library Building
Dunmore, PA 18512
570-963-2660
pjp3@psu.edu

Shenango

Amy Petrucci-Effinite
Manager & Academic Advising
147 Shenango Avenue
Sharon, PA 16146
724-983-2860

alp23@psu.edu

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (<https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/>) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

Wilkes-Barre

Christyne Berzsenyi
Program Coordinator, Letters, Arts, and Sciences
44 University Drive
Dallas, PA 18612
570-675-9275
cab39@psu.edu

World Campus

Undergraduate Academic Advising
100 Innovation Blvd
Suite 225
University Park, PA 16803
814-863-3283
advising@worldcampus.psu.edu

Contact

Abington

DIVISION OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
1600 Woodland Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-881-7826
salguero@psu.edu

<https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/associate-degree-programs/multidisciplinary-studies> (<https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/associate-degree-programs/multidisciplinary-studies/>)

Altoona

DIVISION OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Smith Building C112
3000 Ivyside Park
Altoona, PA 16601
814-949-5084
jzg3@psu.edu

<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/associate-degrees/multidisciplinary-studies/contact-information> (<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/associate-degrees/multidisciplinary-studies/contact-information/>)

Berks

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Franco Building
Reading, PA 19610
610-396-6298
BKLettersArtSci@psu.edu

<https://berks.psu.edu/academics/multidisciplinary-studies> (<https://berks.psu.edu/academics/multidisciplinary-studies/>)

Brandywine

25 Yearsley Mill Road
Media, PA 19063
610-892-1465
pjd15@psu.edu

<https://www.brandywine.psu.edu/academics/associate-degrees/multidisciplinary-studies> (<https://www.brandywine.psu.edu/academics/associate-degrees/multidisciplinary-studies/>)

DuBois

1 College Place
220 Swift
DuBois, PA 15801
814-375-4783
djg25@psu.edu

<https://dubois.psu.edu/academics/degrees/mds> (<https://dubois.psu.edu/academics/degrees/mds/>)

Erie

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
170 Irvin Kochel Center
4951 College Drive
Erie, PA 16563
814-898-6108
HSSOffice@psu.edu

<https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences> (<https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/>)

Fayette

2201 University Drive
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456
724-430-4249
lmj133@psu.edu

<https://fayette.psu.edu/academics/associate/letters-arts-and-sciences> (<https://fayette.psu.edu/academics/associate/letters-arts-and-sciences/>)

Harrisburg

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
Olmsted Building, W356
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6189
mpf5451@psu.edu

<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/humanities/multidisciplinary-studies-aa> (<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/humanities/multidisciplinary-studies-aa/>)

Hazleton

Butler 203
76 University Drive
Hazleton, PA 18202
570-450-3558
cxd35@psu.edu

<https://hazleton.psu.edu/associate-arts-multidisciplinary-studies> (<https://hazleton.psu.edu/associate-arts-multidisciplinary-studies/>)

Mont Alto

1 Campus Drive
Mont Alto, PA 17237
717-749-6055
mol7@psu.edu

<https://montalto.psu.edu/academics/associate/associate-letters-arts-sciences-degree> (<https://montalto.psu.edu/academics/associate/associate-letters-arts-sciences-degree/>)

New Kensington

3550 Seventh Street Rd.
New Kensington, PA 15068
724-334-6094
rah32@psu.edu

<https://newkensington.psu.edu/academics/2-year-letters-arts-sciences> (<https://newkensington.psu.edu/academics/2-year-letters-arts-sciences/>)

Schuylkill

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-6088
nikki@psu.edu

<https://schuylkill.psu.edu/academics/assoc-degrees/las> (<https://schuylkill.psu.edu/academics/assoc-degrees/las/>)

Scranton

13 Library Building
Dunmore, PA 18512
570-963-2660
pjp3@ (pjp3@psu.edu)psu.edu (pjp3@psu.edu)

<https://scranton.psu.edu/academics/degrees/associate/multidisciplinary-studies> (<https://scranton.psu.edu/academics/degrees/associate/multidisciplinary-studies/>)

Shenango

147 Shenango Avenue
Sharon, PA 16146
724-983-2860
alp23@psu.edu

<https://shenango.psu.edu/academics/degrees/2-year-multidisciplinary-studies> (<https://shenango.psu.edu/academics/degrees/2-year-multidisciplinary-studies/>)

University Park

118 Sparks Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-1438
laadvising@psu.edu

Wilkes-Barre

44 University Drive
Dallas, PA 18612
570-675-9275
cab39@psu.edu

<https://wilkesbarre.psu.edu/academics/associate/multidisciplinary-studies> (<https://wilkesbarre.psu.edu/academics/associate/multidisciplinary-studies/>)

World Campus

118 Sparks Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-1438
laadvising@psu.edu

<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-multidisciplinary-studies-associate-in-arts-degree> (<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-multidisciplinary-studies-associate-in-arts-degree/>)