MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, A.A. (ALTOONA)

Begin Campus: Altoona  
End Campus: Altoona

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 foreign 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 foreign language.

Courses that will satisfy the arts, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, and quantification requirements are defined on the Multidisciplinary Studies checksheet, 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/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100</td>
<td>Effective Speech</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Courses

Select one of the following: 3 credits

- 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

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 3 credits in any course designated as arts 3 credits
Select 3 credits in any course designated as humanities 3 credits
Select 3 credits in any course designated as social and behavioral sciences 3 credits
Select 3 credits in any course designated as physical, biological, or earth sciences 3 credits
Select 9 credits in any of the following areas: arts, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences and quantification, and foreign language skills 9 credits

1 If foreign language courses are chosen, it is recommended that these courses be in one foreign 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/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Program Learning Objectives
- Application: Students will be able to apply empirical or creative process specific to their fields of specialization.
- Communication: Students will be able to communicate clearly and persuasively the integration of their learning of multiple disciplines in a degree program that reflects their theme.
- Cultural Competence: Students will be able to engage meaningfully and respectively with others who have different perspectives or world views.
- Professional Identity: Students will be able to synthesize multiple disciplinary perspectives into an intellectual or professional identity.

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814-865-2545
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Suggested Academic Plan
The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2023-24 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Multidisciplinary Studies, A.A. at Altoona Campus
The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30H</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CAS 100, CAS 100A, CAS 100B, or CAS 100C</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSU 3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education (GQ)</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td>Area of Emphasis Course for the Major</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Behavioral Science for the Major</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
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Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts Course for the Major</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Area of Emphasis Course for the Major</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical, Biological or Earth Sciences Course for the Major</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Humanities Course for the Major</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of Emphasis Course for the Major</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective: Writing Across the Curriculum Requirement</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 61

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Additional Notes

The associate degree in letters, arts, and sciences (2 LAS) is a degree which allows learners to experience a variety of academic disciplines as well as prepare for continued studies in a bachelor degree program. Please consult with your adviser if you have a particular bachelor degree in mind. Your adviser can help build a plan to help you meet any admission or course prerequisite requirements for the bachelor degree.

Students must complete one course with each of the following designations: W: Writing intensive; US and IL for International competency. This require can be met through General Education or Related courses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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