

# 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:**

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 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 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/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CAS 100	Effective Speech	3
ENGL 15	Rhetoric and Composition	3
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<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	
<b>Supporting Courses and Related Areas</b>		
<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 foreign language skills <sup>1</sup>		9

<sup>1</sup> 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 an 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 respectfully 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.

## Academic Advising

### 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

### Abington

**Pierce Salguero**

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

**Jackie Atkins/Anthony Vallone**

Co-Program Coordinators Letters, Arts, and Sciences  
1 College Place  
DuBois, PA 15801  
814-375-4815 or 814-375-4814  
jka1@psu.edu or ajv2@psu.edu

### Erie

**Joshua Shaw**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
140 Kochel  
Erie, PA 16563  
814-898-6444  
jjs34@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

Assistant Teaching Professor  
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

301 Outreach Building  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-863-3283  
advising@outreach.psu.edu

## 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

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 15 or 30H <sup>†</sup>	3 CAS 100, CAS 100A, CAS 100B, or CAS 100C <sup>‡</sup>	3
PSU 3	1 General Education Course	3
General Education (GQ) <sup>‡</sup>	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 Area of Emphasis Course for the Major <sup>*</sup>	3
Social and Behavioral Science for the Major <sup>*</sup>	3 Elective	3
Elective	3	
	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>

### Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Arts Course for the Major <sup>*</sup>	3 Area of Emphasis Course for the Major <sup>*</sup>	3
Physical, Biological or Earth Sciences Course for the Major <sup>*</sup>	3 Humanities Course for the Major <sup>*</sup>	3
Area of Emphasis Course for the Major <sup>*</sup>	3 ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D <sup>‡</sup>	3
Elective: Writing Across the Curriculum Requirement	3 General Education Course	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

### 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.

## Contact

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

### Abington

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

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

### Berks

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

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

### 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  
DuBois, PA 15801  
814-375-4815 or 814-375-4814  
jka1@psu.edu or ajv2@psu.edu

<https://dubois.psu.edu/las> (<https://dubois.psu.edu/las/>)

### 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/multidisciplinary> (<https://wilkesbarre.psu.edu/academics/multidisciplinary/>)

**World Campus**

FILIPPELLI INSTITUTE FOR E-EDUCATION AND OUTREACH  
 128 Sparks Building  
 University Park, PA 16802  
 814-863-3894  
 blm26@psu.edu

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