MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, A.A. (CAPITAL)

Begin Campus: Harrisburg, Hershey Med Ctr, Nurses at Hershey
End Campus: Harrisburg, Hershey Med Ctr, Nurses at Hershey

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</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>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202A</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202B</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Writing in the Humanities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202C</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Technical Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202D</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Business Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 3 credits in any course designated as arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 3 credits in any course designated as humanities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 3 credits in any course designated as social and behavioral sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 3 credits in any course designated as physical, biological, or earth sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Program Learning Objectives
• 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.
• Students will be able to apply empirical or creative process specific to their fields of specialization.
• Students will be able to synthesize multiple disciplinary perspectives into an intellectual or professional identity.
• Students will be able to engage meaningfully and respectively with others who have different perspectives or world views.

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.
### Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2024-25 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.

#### Multidisciplinary Studies, A.A. at Harrisburg 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 15S, 30T, or ESL 15†</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td>Quantification</td>
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<td>CAS 100A or 100S‡</td>
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<td>General Education Course</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>General Education Course*</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>General Education Course*</td>
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<td>ENGL 202A‡</td>
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<td>Related Courses Selection*</td>
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<td>Related Courses Selection*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Electives 6

**Total Credits 60**

* 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 on 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**

**Harrisburg**
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
Olmsted Building, W356
Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6596
dzs640@psu.edu

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

**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/)

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

**Hazleton**
Butler 203
76 University Drive
Hazleton, PA 18202
570-450-3558
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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
ppj3@psu.edu (ppj3@psu.edu)psu.edu (ppj3@psu.edu)
https://scranton.psu.edu/academics/degrees/associate/multidisciplinary-studies (https://scranton.psu.edu/academics/degrees/associate/multidisciplinary-studies/)

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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
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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
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128 Sparks Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-863-3894
blm26@psu.edu