MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, A.A. (LIBERAL ARTS)

Begin Campus: University Park, World Campus
End Campus: University Park, World Campus

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 (http://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></td>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CAS 100 Effective Speech</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENGL 15 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></td>
<td>ENGL 202A Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENGL 202B Effective Writing: Writing in the Humanities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENGL 202C Effective Writing: Technical Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENGL 202D 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 foreign language skills</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.)

- 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 is used to satisfy more than one requirement, the credits from the course can be counted only once.

Foundations or Knowledge Domains
• Any General Education course: 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 (http://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
• Communication: Students will be able to effectively communicate in both written and oral formats.
• Information Literacy: Students will display informational literacy that enables the effective creation and delivery of documents via various electronic media, with attention to message content, page layout, and graphical elements.
• Knowledge: Students will be able to integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines into a degree program that reflects their theme.
• Research: Students will be able to conduct research and apply empirical or creative process specific to their fields of specialization.

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.
### Multidisciplinary Studies, A.A. at University Park Campus and World 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><strong>ENGL 15 or 30H‡</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>CAS 100, 100A, 100B, or 100C‡</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Quantification (GQ)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Behavioral Sciences for the Major*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Area of Emphasis Course for the Major*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

‡ Course must be taken for a letter grade. Courses may be taken S/U as indicated, but the letter grade option is strongly encouraged.

* Students should choose a course or courses that align with their specific educational goals and interests.

### 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
Adam Gustafson, Ph.D.  
Program Coordinator  
Olmsted Building, W356  
Middletown, PA 17057  
717-948-6675  
arg18@psu.edu

### Hazleton
Maggie Gordon Froehlich  
Associate Professor of English  
Butler 203K  
Hazleton, PA 18202  
570-450-3134  
mgf10@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
Anita Vickers  
Coordinator of Humanities and Corporate Communication  
C201 200 University Drive  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
570-385-6155  
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

### Wilkes-Barre
Christyne Berzensyi  
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
### Second Year

**Fall**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts Course for the Major&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Area of Emphasis Course for the Major&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical, Biological or Earth Sciences Course for the Major&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Humanities Course for the Major&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of Emphasis Course for the Major&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 202 for the major&lt;sup&gt;*&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective: Writing Across the Curriculum Requirement</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 University 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.  
GWS, GQ, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GN, GA, GH, and GS). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

**Advising Note:**

All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.
http://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences

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

http://fayette.psu.edu/letters-arts-and-sciences

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

https://harrisburg.psu.edu/humanities/arts-humanities/associate-arts-letters-arts-and-sciences

Hazleton
Butler 203K
Hazleton, PA 18202
570-450-3134
mgf10@psu.edu

http://hazleton.psu.edu/associate-arts-letters-arts-and-sciences

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

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

https://newkensington.psu.edu/2-year-letters-arts-sciences

Schuylkill
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Coordinator of Humanities and Corporate Communication
C201 200 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972
570-385-6155
amv5@psu.edu

http://www.schuylkill.psu.edu/las

Scranton
13 Library Building
Dunmore, PA 18512
570-963-2660
pj3@psu.edu

http://worthingtonscranont.psu.edu/associate-degrees-letters-arts-and-sciences

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

https://shenango.psu.edu/academics/majors-shenango/letters-arts-sciences/associate-degrees

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

http://wilkesbarre.psu.edu/academics/las