

# INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

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# INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) program provides students with an enhanced education through the study of two disciplines in a planned and purposeful approach. The program is designed to accommodate students who are interested in fields of study that are not offered as specific major programs at Lander University.

Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) students may select an existing IDS module that meets their needs or interests, or they may work with the coordinator of the IDS program and the chairs of two disciplines to develop a new module tailored to their individual interests or career needs.

## Program Objectives

The IDS program will

1. Provide an interdisciplinary academic experience for students with career interests that are not satisfied by current discipline-based programs at Lander.
2. Provide an appropriate academic program for adults in the community for whom a major in one discipline is too limiting.
3. Offer students opportunities to explore emerging fields through innovative program design using existing course offerings.

## Program-Learning Objectives

Students completing an IDS program will

1. gain college level understanding of the fundamentals of the two disciplines in their IDS module;
2. analyze and critically evaluate information in those two disciplines;
3. demonstrate the ability to integrate the two disciplines into a comprehensive body of knowledge; and
4. demonstrate the ability to communicate understanding of the interdisciplinary links to others, both orally and in writing, or in other media as appropriate to their module.

## Admission to the IDS Program

Students may request admission to the IDS major at any point in their academic career but should consult with the IDS Program Coordinator beforehand to assess the timeline for graduation within that emphasis.

New and returning students interested in the IDS program are encouraged to contact the IDS Program Coordinator upon acceptance into Lander University. This will provide a suitable amount of time to develop and obtain approval for a new module in the IDS Program, if necessary. It is expected that students will have a reasonably clear idea of what they hope to accomplish through the IDS program at Lander University, for example, a particular career path or exploring a newly developed or developing field of study.

For students proposing a new module, should allow time for development and approval by the Department Chairs of the two disciplines that will contribute to the module. Acceptance into the IDS program is contingent on the approval of the proposed module by all faculty bodies. Students may select from modules already approved.

## Program Requirements

An IDS program consists of general education courses, two IDS courses, courses in the two disciplines of the module, and additional elective hours. The program may result in either a Bachelor of Arts degree or a Bachelor of Science degree depending on the design of the module.

All Lander University general education requirements must be met in completing an IDS program. Specific general education courses may be required in some categories in order to complete or complement the particular module selected or developed. These module-specific courses will be indicated on the approved module program requirements pages.

The two courses required of all IDS students are IDS 101 and IDS 499. The first provides an introduction to interdisciplinary studies and the second is the capstone course in the major.

Courses in an IDS module will include a minimum of 30 credit hours at the 300-level or higher in the two represented disciplines, 18 hours in one and 12 hours in the other. Additional courses that are either foundational for the module or which are prerequisites for the upper-level courses may also be required.

## **Program Requirements for an IDS Program with a Module in Education**

To remain in an IDS Program in with a module in Education, students must maintain an institutional GPA of at least 2.75, earn a “B” or better in all education field experience courses, and maintain “At Target” on all Professional Dispositions. Failure to meet these requirements may result in dismissal from Education Major Program #1 or Education Major Program #2.

Students selecting an IDS module with an Education field listed as MAJOR PROGRAM #1 or MAJOR PROGRAM #2 must meet professional disposition requirements within the College of Education. All students in these modules complete internships designed specifically for their program. If a dispositional or disciplinary concern results in a student’s dismissal from an internship, it may also result in dismissal from their Education field major program.

## **Approved Programs (Modules) in Interdisciplinary Studies**

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*Visit the Interdisciplinary Studies webpage in the Lander University website for program requirements.*

BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Allied Health Studies  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Biology and Human Services  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Educational Psychology for Special Populations  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Environmental Health  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Environmental Science and Public Administration  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Exercise Science and Human Services  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Financial Services and Public Relations  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Graphic Design and Marketing  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Health Promotion and Wellness: Behavioral Health  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Health Promotion and Wellness: Healthcare Management  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Health Promotion and Wellness: Human Services  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Health Promotion and Wellness: Policy  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: International Environment and Sustainability  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Management, Public Relations  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Management, Therapeutic Horsemanship  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Studies in Early Childhood Education and Psychology  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Studies in Early Childhood with Special Needs  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Studies in Special Education Facility or Education Organization Management  
BS in Interdisciplinary Studies: Teaching and Learning for Diverse Elementary Students (Reading/Media)

*(See IDS Program Coordinator for information on IDS modules pending approval.)*

## **Proposing a New Module**

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Students or faculty members wishing to propose a new IDS module may do so in consultation with the IDS Program Coordinator and the Department Chairs of the two disciplines in the proposed module. A program proposal form bearing the signatures of the department chairs will be completed and returned to the IDS Program Coordinator. The module will then be submitted to the appropriate faculty bodies on campus for approval. Modifications to a proposed module may occur throughout the approval process. Students are not to consider their program of study as officially determined until the module has successfully passed all levels of approval.

The IDS Program Coordinator will serve as the initial academic advisor for all incoming IDS students, and will inform students of the official approval of any newly proposed modules.

## MODEL MODULE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS TEMPLATES

### 2025-2026 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

**DEGREE: BACHELOR OF ARTS**

**MAJOR: INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES:**

**AREA 1:**

**AREA 2:**

Credit Hours

#### GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

(For approved courses, see General Education: [www.lander.edu/gen-ed](http://www.lander.edu/gen-ed).)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>A. Core Academic Skills</b> (9 hours)   | 3 |
| ENGL 101: Writing and Inquiry I  | 3 |
| ENGL 102: Writing and Inquiry II   | 3 |
| Mathematics  | 3 |
| <br><b>B. Humanities and Fine Arts</b>   |   |
| (6 hours selected from 2 different disciplines)  | 6 |
| <br><b>C. Behavioral and Social Perspectives</b>   |   |
| (6 hours selected from 2 different disciplines)  | 6 |
| <i>If you already have credit for HIST 111, do not take HIST 111R; if you already have credit for HIST 112, do not take HIST 112R; if you already have credit for POLS 101, do not take POLS 101R.</i> |   |
| <br><b>D. Scientific and Mathematical Reasoning</b>  |   |
| (7 hours selected from 2 different disciplines, 1 lab science required)  | 7 |
| <br><b>E. Founding Documents of the United States</b>  | 3 |
| HIST 111R: United States History to 1877 or  |   |
| HIST 112R: United States History since 1877 or   |   |
| POLS 101R: American National Government  |   |
| <i>If you already have credit for HIST 111, do not take HIST 111R; if you already have credit for HIST 112, do not take HIST 112R; if you already have credit for POLS 101, do not take POLS 101R.</i> |   |
| <br><b>F. World Cultures</b>   | 3 |
| <br><b>G. LINK 101: Leadership, Involvement, Networking and Knowledge</b>  | 1 |
| LINK 101 is required of all new transfer students who have earned less than 24 credit hours of college-level work and all first-time freshmen.   |   |

TOTAL GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS	35
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If all of the General Education requirements are met and/or waived, and the credit hours do not add up to at least 30, the General Education requirements are not complete. If below 30, additional General Education courses from any category must be taken until the total hours add up to at least 30 hours.

#### \*MAJOR PROGRAM CORE REQUIREMENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| IDS 101: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies | 3 |
| IDS 499: Interdisciplinary Capstone Seminar        | 3 |

#### \*MAJOR PROGRAM #1 REQUIREMENTS (18 hours 300-level or higher)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Major Program #1 (300-level or higher) | 3 |
| Major Program #1 (300-level or higher) | 3 |
| Major Program #1 (300-level or higher) | 3 |
| Major Program #1 (300-level or higher) | 3 |
| Major Program #1 (300-level or higher) | 3 |

Major Program #1 (300-level or higher)	3
<b>*MAJOR PROGRAM #2 REQUIREMENTS (12 hours 300-level or higher)</b>	
Major Program #2 (300-level or higher)	3
Major Program #2 (300-level or higher)	3
Major Program #2 (300-level or higher)	3
Major Program #2 (300-level or higher)	3
<b>ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS</b>	
102-level Foreign Language	3
200-level Foreign Language	3
<b>TOTAL MAJOR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>TOTAL FOR BA DEGREE</b>	<b>120</b>

\*Students must earn a “C” or better in all program requirement courses.

Coursework must include at least 30 hours earned in 300- or above level courses, of which 12 hours must be in the major.

## 2025-2026 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

**DEGREE: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**  
**MAJOR: INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES:**  
**AREA 1:**  
**AREA 2:**

Credit Hours

**GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**  
 (For approved courses, see General Education: [www.lander.edu/gen-ed](http://www.lander.edu/gen-ed).)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>A. Core Academic Skills</b> (9 hours)   | 3 |
| ENGL 101: Writing and Inquiry I  | 3 |
| ENGL 102: Writing and Inquiry II   | 3 |
| Mathematics  | 3 |
| <b>B. Humanities and Fine Arts</b>   |   |
| (6 hours selected from 2 different disciplines)  | 6 |
| <b>C. Behavioral and Social Perspectives</b>   |   |
| (6 hours selected from 2 different disciplines)  | 6 |
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| HIST 112R: United States History since 1877 or   |   |
| POLS 101R: American National Government  |   |
| <i>If you already have credit for HIST 111, do not take HIST 111R; if you already have credit for HIST 112, do not take HIST 112R; if you already have credit for POLS 101, do not take POLS 101R.</i> |   |
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**TOTAL GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS** 35

If all of the General Education requirements are met and/or waived, and the credit hours do not add up to at least 30, the General Education requirements are not complete. If below 30, additional General Education courses from any category must be taken until the total hours add up to at least 30 hours.

**\*MAJOR PROGRAM CORE REQUIREMENTS**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| IDS 101: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies | 3 |
| IDS 499: Interdisciplinary Capstone Seminar        | 3 |

**\*MAJOR PROGRAM #1 REQUIREMENTS (18 hours 300-level or higher)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Major Program #1 (300-level or higher) | 3 |
| Major Program #1 (300-level or higher) | 3 |
| Major Program #1 (300-level or higher) | 3 |
| Major Program #1 (300-level or higher) | 3 |
| Major Program #1 (300-level or higher) | 3 |
| Major Program #1 (300-level or higher) | 3 |

**\*MAJOR PROGRAM #2 REQUIREMENTS (12 hours 300-level or higher)**

Major Program #2 (300-level or higher)	3
Major Program #2 (300-level or higher)	3
Major Program #2 (300-level or higher)	3
Major Program #2 (300-level or higher)	3
TOTAL MAJOR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	36
<b>ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES</b>	42
TOTAL FOR BS DEGREE	120

\*Students must earn a “C” or better in all program requirement courses.

Coursework must include at least 30 hours earned in 300- or above level courses, of which 12 hours must be in the major.