

Individualized Studies

The Bachelor of Individualized Studies (BIS) degree program at Minot State University offers students an opportunity to design their own major. It is intended for students whose academic needs and career goals cannot be adequately met through existing MSU majors/minors. Students pursuing the BIS degree develop an Academic Plan that draws upon courses largely from two or three disciplines. It is a thoughtfully crafted academic program in which each course serves some clear role in the overall program, contributing to the goals and learning needs of the student.

Student Learning Goals	Student Learning Outcomes
The graduate will possess a well-rounded and comprehensive knowledge base in two or three content areas that are integrated in a way that meets her or his career goals.	The candidate will intentionally integrate knowledge from two to three academic disciplines in a way that is driven by their unique interests or career goals.
	The candidate will apply knowledge and skills of their unique areas of study in an interdisciplinary capstone project.
	The candidate will utilize professional written and oral communication skills.
	The candidate will describe how the knowledge and competencies gained through the BIS program contributes to success in the workplace or graduate school.

General Education (Core and Foundational Requirements)	37-38
Individualized Studies Core:	6-8
IDS 240 Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies	2
IDS 360 Directed Project	2-4
IDS 480 Senior Capstone	2
Individualized Studies Academic Plan:	56
Electives:	18-21
Total Hours	123-131

Courses

IDS 240. Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies. 2 Hours.

Introduction to the nature of interdisciplinary studies - drawing on disciplinary perspectives to construct a more comprehensive perspective to address questions, problems, or topics too broad or complex for a single discipline. The primary goal of the course is to help students develop a thoughtfully crafted Academic Plan of study for pursuit of a BIS degree.

IDS 360. Directed Project. 2-4 Hour.

Under the direction of their advisors, students complete an interdisciplinary projects that integrates their disciplines of study. The nature of the project varies with the student's goals and the disciplines being integrated (e.g., research project, service-learning project, creative work, etc.). May be repeated for credit up to a maximum of 4 credits. Prerequisite: approved Directed Project proposal and permission of IDS director, IDS 240, and permission of instructor.

IDS 470. General Studies Capstone. 1 Hour.

This capstone seminar provides Bachelor of General Studies students an opportunity to reflect on their degree experience and prepare for the future. Students will reflect on and synthesize their academic experiences and present them in a paper and presentation. Part of the course will focus on preparation for the future, including resume and cover letter preparation, interview skills, and professional communications related to individual career goals.

IDS 480. Senior Capstone. 2 Hours.

In this seminar course students present the results of their Directed Project. In most cases students will present their work in both a paper and an oral presentation, but other formats are possible depending on the nature of the Directed Project. Prerequisite: IDS 360.