ABOUT THE MAJOR

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies is an inquiry-centered degree for students who want to engage in extended study of a complex problem--one with multiple dimensions or interacting parts that cannot be adequately addressed fully within the confines of a single discipline (field of study). For example, a comprehensive answer to the question, "Can democracy work at a global scale?", would need to combine insights from a mix of disciplines, such as political science, sociology, mass communications, psychology, geography, economics, philosophy, history, and literature. Addressing complex problems necessitates: depth of knowledge in multiple academic fields, intellectual boundary-crossing in search of ideas, concepts, and techniques, and integration of these to produce a comprehensive solution or understanding. Thus, the BIS offers an academic pathway for students who want to work both within and across multiple academic disciplines while systematically developing the techniques and tools of interdisciplinary inquiry and problem-solving.

ABOUT THIS MAP

The Four-Year Plan is designed only as a guide. It does not guarantee; 1) that all courses listed will be offered during a given semester, or 2) if they are offered that the scheduling will not conflict. Estimated time of completion is based on 15 hour semesters, with no summer classes. A change in hours or courses taken during the summer will either reduce (taking 18 hrs or summers) or extend (taking less than 15 hrs) the time needed. Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UWG, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone's experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

WHERE CAN YOU GO WITH THIS DEGREE?

- Applications architect
- Business intelligence developer
- Data Architect
- Data Engineer
- Data Scientist
- Enterprise Architect
- Infrastructure Architect
- Machine Learning Engineer
- Machine Learning Scientist
- Statistician

ADD A CERTIFICATE

- Data Analysis & Evaluation Methods
- Data Analytics
- Ethics
- International Business
- Nonprofit Management & Community Development

Visit westga.edu/program-maps for the latest version of this major map.

HONORS COLLEGE

Consider joining if you have an Overall GPA of 3.2 and earned 15 college credit hours!

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
DATA SCIENCE PATHWAY
Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

60 CORE CREDIT HOURS

40 MAJOR CREDIT HOURS

20 ELECTIVE CREDIT HOURS

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

2024-2025

TERM 1: FALL

C1: ENGL 1101 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
English Composition I

M: MATH 1113 — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Precalculus

T3: CS 1300 — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Intro to Computer Science

I1: ORAL COMMUNICATIONS — 3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE ENGL 1101 WITH C OR BETTER
- COMPLETE MATH 1113 WITH C OR BETTER
- A CREDIT FROM MATH 1113 AND CS 1300 EACH COUNT AS MAJOR ELECTIVE CREDITS

TERM 2: SPRING

C2: ENGL 1102 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
English Composition II

F: MATH 1634 — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Calculus I

I2: XIDS 2002 — 2 CREDIT HOURS
(Recommended) First-Year Seminar

T1: SCIENCE + LAB — 3 CREDIT HOURS

S2: SOCIAL SCIENCE — 3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE ENGL 1102 WITH C OR BETTER
- COMPLETE MATH 1634 WITH C OR BETTER
- COMPLETE LAB SCIENCE

14 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 16 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 30 CREDIT HOURS

CRUSH YOUR COURSEWORK
- Make sure to take XIDS 2000: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies to start your intellectual, boundary-crossing journey!
- Discover your interests in your core classes. These can help you establish your disciplines.

FIND YOUR PLACE
- Check out UWG's Academic Transition Programs, and take a cornerstone course (XIDS 2002).
- Explore events, clubs, and organizations available to you! Let the program and/or disciplines you've identified guide your search.
- Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research.

BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES
- Explore diversity, equity, and inclusion resources and opportunities across campus.
- Check out the education abroad office.

CONNECT OFF-CAMPUS
- Visit Wolves Vote to learn about the voting process and registration.
- Consider volunteering for a campaign or organization in your community.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
- Visit the UWG Wellness Hub to find all the resources available to you!
- Visit Health Services.
- Get fit! Visit URec to see all your options.
- Visit the Center for Economic Education and Financial Literacy.

PAVE YOUR PATH
- Complete a self-assessment to see what careers and majors are right for you.
- Visit Office of Career and Graduate School Connections.
- Create your profile on Handshake.
- Consider applying for an on-campus job.

TERM 1: FALL

P2: POLS 1101 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
American Government

P1: HIST 2111 OR 2112 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
US History

F: CS 1301 — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Computer Science I

F: MATH 2644 — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Calculus II

A: HUMANITIES — 3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONE:
- COMPLETE CS 1301 WITH B OR BETTER

TERM 2: SPRING

S1: HIST 1111 OR 1112 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
World History

MATH 4203 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Mathematical Probability

F: MATH 2853 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Elementary Linear Algebra

CS 1302 — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Computer Science II

A: HUMANITIES — 3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE CS 1302 WITH B OR BETTER
- COMPLETE BIS DEGREE PLAN AND SUBMIT TO REGISTRAR

17 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 16 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 33 CREDIT HOURS

CRUSH YOUR COURSEWORK
- Work with your IDS professors in XIDS 3000 to establish your degree plan, including identifying your complex problem and exploring how and what disciplines can help inform your inquiry.

FIND YOUR PLACE
- Attend UWG Scholars' Day.
- Check out what university associations and community organizations relate to your disciplines.

BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES
- In a student organization? Suggest you all complete an implicit bias workshop.
- Consider a study abroad program. Check out students' stories of their experiences.

CONNECT OFF-CAMPUS
- Complete an internship in your field.
- Consider a summer or part-time job.
- Ask your department about networking opportunities with alumni.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
- Take a fitness class, climb the rock wall, or join an intramural team.
- Consider whether counseling is right for you: take a mental health screening.

PAVE YOUR PATH
- Draft your resume and attend a resume blitz.
- Learn about how to network on social media and update your Handshake profile.
- Draft your personal statement.
- Visit the graduate school to find out about graduate programs and admission requirements.

TERM 1: FALL

MATH 3003 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Transition to Advanced Math

CS 3280 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Systems Programming

ELECTIVE — 3 CREDIT HOURS
3000-4000 level course

F: XIDS 2000 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Intro to Interdisciplinary Studies

T3: NON-LAB SCIENCE — 3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONE:
• FINISH CORE
• XIDS 2000 IS OFFERED IN THE SPRING DURING EVEN YEARS AND IN THE FALL DURING ODD YEARS.

TERM 2: SPRING

XIDS 3000 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Interdisciplinary Methods

MATH 4483 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Graph Theory

CS 3151 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Data Structures and Discrete Math I

CS 3270 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Intelligent Systems

ELECTIVE OR F: XIDS 2000 — 3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONES:
• MEET WITH DISCIPLINARY MENTORS ABOUT DEGREE PLAN AND CAPSTONE PROJECT
• SUBMIT PLAN FOR CAPSTONE PROJECT

15 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 15 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 30 CREDIT HOURS

CRUSH YOUR COURSEWORK
• Work with your IDS professors in XIDS 3000 to establish your degree plan, including identifying your complex problem and exploring how and what disciplines can help inform your inquiry.

FIND YOUR PLACE
• Attend UWG Scholars' Day.
• Check out what university associations and community organizations relate to your disciplines.

BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES
• In a student organization? Suggest you all complete an implicit bias workshop.
• Consider a study abroad program. Check out students' stories of their experiences.

CONNECT OFF-CAMPUS
• Complete an internship in your field.
• Consider a summer or part-time job.
• Ask your department about networking opportunities with alumni.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
• Take a fitness class, climb the rock wall, or join an intramural team.
• Consider whether counseling is right for you: take a mental health screening.

PAVE YOUR PATH
• Draft your resume and attend a resume blitz.
• Learn about how to network on social media and update your Handshake profile.
• Draft your personal statement.
• Visit the graduate school to find out about graduate programs and admission requirements.

TERM 1: FALL

MATH 4213 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Mathematical Statistics

CS 4725 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Foundations of Machine Learning

MATH 4803 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Analysis of Variance

ELECTIVE — 3 CREDIT HOURS
3000-4000 level course

ELECTIVE — 3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONE:
• FINISH CAPSTONE PROPOSAL/PLAN IN XIDS 3000

TERM 2: SPRING

XIDS 4000 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Interdisciplinary Capstone

MATH 4813 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Regression Analysis

ELECTIVE — 3 CREDIT HOURS

ELECTIVE — 3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONE:
• COMPLETE CAPSTONE PROJECT, SUBMIT IN XIDS 4000

15 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 12 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 27 CREDIT HOURS

CRUSH YOUR COURSEWORK
• This is the time for your XIDS capstone! Make sure you have 9 hours of 3000-4000-level coursework for each of your two disciplines!

FIND YOUR PLACE
• Hone your leadership skills by mentoring new IDS majors!
• Consider running for an officer position in a student organization.

BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES
• Assess your cultural competency.
• Consider working abroad and research visa regulations.
• Explore practices of creating more inclusive careers.

CONNECT OFF-CAMPUS
• Ask for advice from professionals in your field of interest.
• Explore career shadowing opportunities.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
• Explore a farmer's market for fresh produce.
• Develop a post-graduation exercise plan.
• Explore your loan repayment options and complete your exit counseling.

PAVE YOUR PATH
• Request references from professors and supervisors.
• Draft your resume cover letter and personal statement and revise it with career services.
• Attend business fairs and career fairs at UWG and across the state.
• Attend an interview workshop.
• Apply for graduate programs.