

# 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.

Visit [westga.edu/program-maps](https://westga.edu/program-maps) for the latest version of this major map.



VISIT WOLFWATCH  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION.



HAVE A QUESTION?  
CHECK IN WITH  
YOUR ADVISOR!



## WHERE CAN YOU GO WITH THIS DEGREE?

- Analytical Chemist
- Biomedical Scientist
- Crime Scene Investigator
- Detective
- Educator
- Forensic Computer Analyst
- Forensic Scientist
- Scientific Laboratory Technician
- Science Writer
- Toxicologist

## ADD A CERTIFICATE

- Forensic Sciences
- Geographic Information Systems
- Microbiology

## HONORS COLLEGE

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

# INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

## FORENSIC SCIENCE AND INVESTIGATION PATHWAY

*Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies*

60

CORE CREDIT HOURS

36

MAJOR CREDIT HOURS

24

ELECTIVE CREDIT HOURS



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

2025-2026

TERM 1: FALL

C1: ENGL 1101 3 CREDIT HOURS  
English Composition I

M: MATH 1111/1112/1113 3 CREDIT HOURS  
College Algebra, Trigonometry & Analyt Geometry, or  
Precalculus

T3: ANTH 1105 3 CREDIT HOURS  
Introduction to Physical Anthropology

T1: BIOL 1107/2107 + LAB 4 CREDIT HOURS  
Principles of Biology I

I1: ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 3 CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE ENGL 1101 C WITH OR BETTER
  - CONSIDER A POSSIBLE MINOR DECLARATION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO SELECT THE APPROPRIATE LAB SCIENCE COURSES
  - TAKE ANTH 1105

TERM 2: SPRING

C2: ENGL 1102 3 CREDIT HOURS  
English Composition II

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

T2: BIOL 1108/2108 + LAB 4 CREDIT HOURS  
Principles of Biology II

F: CRIM 1100 3 CREDIT HOURS  
Introduction to Criminal Justice

A1: HUMANITIES 3 CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE ENGL 1102 WITH C OR BETTER
  - TAKE CRIM 1100

16 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 15 SPRING CREDIT HOURS  
= 31 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

F: XIDS 2000 3 CREDIT HOURS  
Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies

S1: HIST 1111 OR 1112 3 CREDIT HOURS  
World History

F: CHEM 1211 + LAB 4 CREDIT HOURS  
Principles of Chemistry I

F: MATH 1111/1112 3 CREDIT HOURS  
(If needed)

ANTH 4125 3 CREDIT HOURS  
World History

- MILESTONES:
- TAKE XIDS 2000
  - TAKE ANTH 4125
  - DECLARE YOUR MINOR (IF INTERESTED)

TERM 2: SPRING

F: CHEM 1212 + LAB 4 CREDIT HOURS  
Principles of Chemistry II

P1: HIST 2111 OR 2112 3 CREDIT HOURS  
US History

CHEM 3130 3 CREDIT HOURS  
Modern Forensic Science

A2: PHIL 2030 3 CREDIT HOURS  
Introduction to Ethics

BIS AREA COURSE 3/4 CREDIT HOURS  
Discipline 1

- MILESTONES:
- TAKE CHEM 3130
  - COMPLETE BIOL AND CHEM 1000/2000 LEVEL COURSES
  - BEGIN BIS AREA COURSES

16 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 16/17 SPRING CREDIT HOURS  
= 32/33 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

**P2: POLS 1101** **3** CREDIT HOURS  
American Government

**BIS AREA COURSE** **3/4** CREDIT HOURS  
Discipline 1

**BIS AREA COURSE** **3/4** CREDIT HOURS  
Discipline 2

**ELECTIVE/MINOR** **3** CREDIT HOURS

**ELECTIVE/MINOR** **3** CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE AT LEAST 2 BIS AREA COURSES
  - BEGIN MINOR/ELECTIVE

TERM 2: SPRING

**XIDS 3000** **3** CREDIT HOURS  
Interdisciplinary Methods

**BIS AREA COURSE** **3/4** CREDIT HOURS  
Discipline 3

**S2: SOCIAL SCIENCE** **3** CREDIT HOURS

**ELECTIVE/MINOR** **3** CREDIT HOURS

**ELECTIVE/MINOR** **3** CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE CORE
  - TAKE XIDS 3000, COMPLETE CAPSTONE PLAN
  - CONTINUE TAKING BIS AREA COURSES
  - CONTINUE MINOR/ELECTIVE

15/17 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 15/16 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 30/33 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

**XIDS 4000** **3** CREDIT HOURS  
Interdisciplinary Capstone

**BIS AREA COURSE** **3/4** CREDIT HOURS  
Discipline 4

**BIS AREA COURSE** **3/4** CREDIT HOURS  
Discipline 1

**ELECTIVE/MINOR** **3** CREDIT HOURS

**ELECTIVE/MINOR** **3** CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE XIDS 4000 CAPSTONE, SUBMIT PROJECT
  - CONTINUE BIS AREA COURSES
  - CONTINUE MINOR/ELECTIVE

TERM 2: SPRING

**BIS AREA COURSE** **3/4** CREDIT HOURS  
Discipline 3

**BIS AREA COURSE** **3/4** CREDIT HOURS  
Discipline 2

**ELECTIVE/MINOR** **3** CREDIT HOURS

**ELECTIVE/MINOR** **3** CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE BIS AREA COURSES
  - COMPLETE ALL REQUIRED COURSES
  - TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE: 120

15/17 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 12/14 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 27/30 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.