

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?

- Analytical Chemist
- Biomedical Engineer
- CAD Technician
- Design Engineer
- Geotechnical Engineer
- Materials Engineer
- Metallurgist
- Process Development Scientist
- Research Scientist
- Technical Sales Engineer

ADD A CERTIFICATE

- Atmospheric Science
- Microbiology
- Stream Restoration
- Wildlife Ecology

HONORS COLLEGE

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



INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

MATERIALS SCIENCE PATHWAY

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

60

CORE CREDIT HOURS

36

MAJOR CREDIT HOURS

24

ELECTIVE CREDIT HOURS

Visit 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!



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

2025-2026

TERM 1: FALL

C1: ENGL 1101 3 CREDIT HOURS
English Composition I

M: MATH 1113 4 CREDIT HOURS
Precalculus

I2: XIDS 2001 OR 2002 1 CREDIT HOUR
First-Year Seminar

T1: CHEM 1211 + LAB 4 CREDIT HOURS
Principles of Chemistry I

S1: HIST 1111 OR 1112 3 CREDIT HOURS
World History

- MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE ENGL 1101 WITH C OR BETTER
 - COMPLETE MATH 1113

TERM 2: SPRING

C2: ENGL 1102 3 CREDIT HOURS
English Composition II

T3: MATH 1634 4 CREDIT HOURS
Calculus I

T2: CHEM 1212 + LAB 4 CREDIT HOURS
Principles of Chemistry II

P1: HIST 2111 OR 2112 3 CREDIT HOURS
US History

I2: INSTITUTIONAL OPTIONS 1 CREDIT HOUR

- MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE ENGL 1102 C OR BETTER
 - COMPLETE MATH 1634
 - COMPLETE CHEM 1212/1212L

15 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 15 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

F: PHYS 1111 + LAB 4 CREDIT HOURS
Introductory Physics I

F: MATH 1401 OR 2644 3/4 CREDIT HOURS
Elementary Statistics or Calculus II

I1: COMM 1110 3 CREDIT HOURS
Oral Communications

F: CHEM 2411/2455 + LAB 4 CREDIT HOURS
Organic Chemistry I or Principles of Organic Chemistry

- MILESTONE:
- COMPLETE CHEM 2411/2411L OR 2455/2455L

TERM 2: SPRING

XIDS 2000 3 CREDIT HOURS
Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies

F: PHYS 1112 + LAB 4 CREDIT HOURS
Introductory Physics II

P2: POLS 1101 3 CREDIT HOURS
American Government

ELECTIVE 3 CREDIT HOURS
(Core Area F, if needed)

A: HUMANITIES 3 CREDIT HOURS

- MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE XIDS 2000 WITH C OR BETTER
 - COMPLETE PHYS 1112/1112L
 - COMPLETE BIS DEGREE PLAN AND SUBMIT TO REGISTRAR

13/14 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 16 SPRING CREDIT HOURS
= 29/30 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

PHYS 4985 Applied Mechanics	3 CREDIT HOURS
PHYS 4985 Modern Physics for Engineers	3 CREDIT HOURS
ELECTIVE: GEOL 1121 + LAB (Recommended) Intro Geosciences I	4 CREDIT HOURS
A: HUMANITIES	3 CREDIT HOURS
S2: SOCIAL SCIENCE	3 CREDIT HOURS

TERM 2: SPRING

XIDS 3000 Interdisciplinary Methods	3 CREDIT HOURS
CHEM 3201 Materials Chemistry or Polymer Chemistry	3 CREDIT HOURS
ELECTIVE	3 CREDIT HOURS
ELECTIVE	3 CREDIT HOURS
ELECTIVE	3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONE:
• COMPLETE XIDS 3000 WITH C OR BETTER & FINISH CAPSTONE PROPOSAL/PLAN

16 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 15 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 31 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.
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TERM 1: FALL

PHYS 4985 Fundamentals of Materials	3 CREDIT HOURS
CHEM 4985 Experimental Techology in Materials Chemistry	3 CREDIT HOURS
PHYS 4683 OR CHEM 4083 Internship or Faculty Directed Research	1 CREDIT HOUR
ELECTIVE: PHYS 3511 (Recommended) Experimental Physics I	1 CREDIT HOUR
ELECTIVE: PHYS 3013 (Recommended) Basic Electronics	3 CREDIT HOURS
GEOL 3014 Mineralogy and Crystallography	4 CREDIT HOURS

TERM 2: SPRING

XIDS 4000 Interdisciplinary Capstone	3 CREDIT HOURS
CHEM 3201 Materials Chemistry or Polymer Chemistry	3 CREDIT HOURS
PHYS 4683 OR CHEM 4083 Internship or Faculty Directed Research	2 CREDIT HOURS
ELECTIVE: PHYS 3521 (Recommended) Experimental Physics II	1 CREDIT HOUR
ELECTIVE	3 CREDIT HOURS
ELECTIVE	3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONE:
• COMPLETE XIDS 4000 WITH C OR BETTER ALONG WITH CAPSTONE PROJECT
• REACH 39 CREDIT HOURS AT 3000/4000 LEVEL AND 120 CREDIT HOURS TOTAL

15 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 15 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 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.