INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PATHWAY

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

60 CORE CREDIT HOURS

40 MAJOR CREDIT HOURS

20 ELECTIVE CREDIT HOURS

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?

- 1. Conservation biologist
- 2. Environmental scientist
- 3. Environmental educator
- 4. Fire ecologist
- 5. Land reclamation inspector
- 6. National resources manager
- 7. Park ranger
- 8. Soil and water conservationist
- 9. Watershed scientist
- 10. Wetland ecologist

ADD A CERTIFICATE

- Atmospheric Science
- Global Studies
- Health and Society
- Microbiology
- Stream Restoration
- Wildlife Ecology

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!

HONORS COLLEGE

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

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

2026-2027

YEAR 1

TERM 1: FALL

C1: ENGL 1101 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
English Composition I

M: MATH 1111 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
College Algebra

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

P2: POLS 1101 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
American Government

I1: ORAL COMMUNICATIONS — 3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE ENGL 1101 WITH C OR BETTER
- COMPLETE CORE IMPACTS MATH

TERM 2: SPRING

C2: ENGL 1102 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
English Composition II

F: MATH 1113 — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Precalculus

F: BIOL 1107 + LAB — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Principles of Biology I

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

I2: INSTITUTIONAL OPTIONS — 1 CREDIT HOUR

MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE ENGL 1102 WITH C OR BETTER
- COMPLETE MATH 1113 WITH C OR BETTER
- COMPLETE BIOL 1107/1107L WITH C OR BETTER
- REACH 30 CREDIT HOURS FOR FALL/SPRING COMBINED

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.

YEAR 2

TERM 1: FALL

F: BIOL 1108 + LAB — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Principles of Biology II

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

F: GEOG 2553 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Introduction to GIS & Mapping

A: ARTS/HUMANITIES/ETHICS — 3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE BIOL 1108/1108L WITH C OR BETTER
- COMPLETE CHEM 1211/1211L WITH C OR BETTER

TERM 2: SPRING

XIDS 2000 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Intro. to Interdisciplinary Studies

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

T3: MATH 1401 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Elementary Statistics

F: GEOL 1121 + LAB — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Physical Geology

MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE CHEM 1212/1212L WITH C ORBETTER
- COMPLETE XIDS 2000 WITH C OR BETTER
- COMPLETE BIS DEGREE PLAN AND SUBMIT TO REGISTRAR

TERM 3: SUMMER

S2: ECON 2106 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Principles of Microeconomics

14 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 14 SPRING CREDIT HOURS + 3 SUMMER 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.
- 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.

YEAR 3

TERM 1: FALL

BIOL 3168 — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Evolution and Ecology

WFE1: BIOL 4427 — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Conservation Biology

HD1: ECON 3480 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Environ. & Natural Resource Economics

ELECTIVE — 4 CREDIT HOURS
3000/4000 level elective

TERM 2: SPRING

XIDS 3000 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Interdisciplinary Methods

WFE2: BIOL 4425 — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Fire Ecology

ELECTIVE — 3 CREDIT HOURS
3000/4000 level elective

A: ARTS/HUMANITIES/ETHICS — 3 CREDIT HOURS

MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE BIOL 3135
- COMPLETE XIDS 3000 WITH C OR BETTER & FINISH CAPSTONE PROPOSAL/PLAN

TERM 3: SUMMER

HD2: POLS 4209 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Environmental Policy

15 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 13 SPRING CREDIT HOURS + 3 SUMMER 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.
- 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.

YEAR 4

TERM 1: FALL

AWL1: GEOL 3603 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Environmental Geology

WFE3: BIOL 4424 — 4 CREDIT HOURS
Wildlife Habitat Ecology

HD3: GEOG 3405 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Geographies of Sustainability

ELECTIVE — 4 CREDIT HOURS
3000/4000 level elective

TERM 2: SPRING

XIDS 4000 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Interdisciplinary Capstone

METHODS: ENGL 3405 — 3 CREDIT HOURS
Professional & Technical Writing

ELECTIVE — 4 CREDIT HOURS
3000/4000 level elective

ELECTIVE — 4 CREDIT HOURS
3000/4000 level elective

MILESTONES:
- COMPLETE XIDS 4000 WITH C OR BETTER ALONG WITH CAPSTONE PROJECT
- REACH 39 CREDIT HOURS AT 3000/4000 LEVEL & 120 CREDIT HOURS TOTAL

14 FALL CREDIT HOURS + 14 SPRING CREDIT HOURS = 28 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.