Integrated Studies, B.I.S.

Degree Offered
• Bachelor of Integrated Studies

Nature of the Program
The Bachelor of Integrated Studies allows flexible learning options with the integrative coursework, aligned with a student's future professional and academic goals and interests. It may also utilize credit for prior learning. The major focuses on communications and integrative skills that prepare graduates for future employment or continuing education.

FACULTY
INTERIM COORDINATOR
• John Navartnam - Ph.D. Biology (West Virginia University)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
• Carol Zeickel - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  English Language and Literature
• Renee K. Nicholson - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)
  Creative Writing and Narrative Medicine

INSTRUCTORS
• Andrea Soccorsi - M.A. (West Virginia University)
  English Language and Literature

Admissions
• First time students are not admitted directly to the major unless they are at least two years beyond high school graduation.

• Students who wish to transfer from another WVU major must have a minimum of 12 in process credit hours at WVU or be at least two years beyond high school graduation. Students should have a GPA of at least 2.0 after F-Forgiveness has been applied. If you think you are qualified for F-Forgiveness, please meet with an adviser.

• Students wishing to transfer from outside of WVU must have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 after F-Forgiveness has been applied. They must also have 12 college credits or be at least two years beyond high school graduation. If you think you are qualified for F-Forgiveness, please meet with an adviser.

Note:
• USDE Credits: Eligible students should inquire about the possibility of applying credit hours from institutions which are recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) but are not regionally accredited.

• Credit for prior learning: Eligible students may acquire college credit for professional, volunteer, and military experiences in select areas via the many credit for prior learning options available through the B.I.S. major. Please discuss with a B.I.S. adviser.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS 2023-2024
The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Major Code: 14E8

General Education Foundations
Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

General Education Foundations
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric
Integrated Studies, B.I.S.

ENGL 101 & ENGL 102
or ENGL 103
Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric
and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research
Accelerated Academic Writing

F2A/F2B - Science & Technology 4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning 3-4
F4 - Society & Connections 3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past 3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity 3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity 3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree) 9

Total Hours 31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Degree Requirements
Student must complete the WVU General Education Foundations requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum of 120 hours.

Departmental Requirements for the Bachelor of Integrated Studies

- **Capstone Requirement**: The university requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. BIS majors must complete RBA 401.
- **Writing and Communication Skills Requirements**: Students in the BIS fulfill the Writing and Communication Skills requirement by completing ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 (or ENGL 103), and two additional SpeakWrite Certified Courses™.
- **Calculation of the GPA in the Major**: A minimum GPA of 2.0 across all classes applied to the major is required. If a class is repeated and is not eligible for D/F repeat, the second attempt will be included in the calculation of the GPA.
- **Academic Policies**: The BIS degree offers special academic policies, as approved by the University. Please see the Admissions and Performance Standards tabs.
- **Credit for Prior Learning**: Eligible students may acquire college credit for professional, volunteer, and military experiences in select areas via the many credit for prior learning options available to BIS majors. These opportunities provide many students with a time efficient and cost effective avenue to obtain a degree. The BIS program allows adult learners to earn College Equivalent Credits (CECs) for work/career, life, and other academic experiences. If successful, awarded credits could help meet graduation requirements while reducing the overall costs of their college experience. Students are not being given credits for the years of service in their respective fields. Rather, they are being given credits based on their ability to articulate how their varied career experiences may have helped them to acquire equivalent or similar knowledge that they would have otherwise acquired in the classroom.
- **Second Degree**: Students who are completing another degree may not complete the BIS. Similarly, second-degree seeking students will not be accepted in the BIS program.
- **Minors**: Although the completion of a minor is not required, students may use their General Elective hours to complete one or more minors.
- **Benchmark Expectations**: For details, for the the BIS Degree Progress tab.

Curriculum Requirements

**GEF Requirements**: credits may vary depending on overlap

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Coursework</th>
<th>6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDS 289</td>
<td>Foundations of Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDS 301</td>
<td>Integrative Writing</td>
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<tr>
<th>Additional Upper-Division Courses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Select any courses at the 300 or 400 level.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Capstone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDS 401</td>
<td>Capstone in Integrated Studies and RBA</td>
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<th>General Electives</th>
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<td>Number of electives will vary based on GEF.</td>
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Total Hours 120
Policies

Degree Progress

• B.I.S. students are expected to maintain satisfactory progress toward degree completion as determined in consultation with their advisor.
• B.I.S. students are expected to enroll in coursework which applies toward completing the degree requirements of the program.
• B.I.S. students are expected to complete all coursework with a D- or higher and maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA each term. These expectations are in place to ensure students remain in, or are working toward, good academic standing (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecreditstermsclassification/#probationsuspensiontext) and remain on track for graduation.
• Students must meet with their B.I.S. advisor at least once a semester.

Students who do not meet those benchmarks may be removed from the major.

Major Learning Outcomes

INTEGRATED STUDIES

As a result of completing the Bachelor of Integrated Studies students will be able to:

1. Connect experience that occurs outside the classroom with academic studies to explain, present, and write about complex issues.

2. Ask meaningful questions about complex topics, as well as evaluate multiple sources of knowledge relevant to complex topics.

3. Develop intellectual and practical skills, including inquiry and analysis as well as critical and creative thinking, to develop foundations and skills for employment, graduate-level coursework and lifelong learning.

4. Write and present orally adaptable to a variety of contexts with a clear sense of purpose, audience, and conventions.

5. Engage in reflection and self-assessment by building on prior experiences to respond to new and challenging contexts.