



Board of Governors, State University System of Florida  
**Specialized Admissions Status**  
**Initial Approval Request Form**  
In Accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Specialized Admissions

**INSTITUTION: University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

**DEGREE PROGRAM: Interdisciplinary Studies Undergraduate Degree Program (IDS)**

**CIP CODE 30.9999**

**Effective Academic Year 2023**

1. Does this request for specialized admissions status apply to the whole degree program? If no, please specify which major(s) or track(s) are seeking the status. YES

The request for specialized admission status applies to the entire IDS degree program which has multiple tracks or specializations. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recognizes that undergraduate students' academic and professional interests may lie within more than one discipline. Research and curricular activities increasingly shape academia. The college offers the opportunity for students to develop their own interdisciplinary program of study including research, through the IDS major. The degree program is specifically for those students who's academic and/or professional interests are not met by a traditional academic degree program.

The IDS major program has several established specializations: American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biological Illustration, Film and Media Studies, Latin American Studies, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, and Neurobiological Sciences. Students are not limited to these established specializations and may, with faculty sponsorship, create a unique program of study that integrates two or more disciplines.

2. Which criteria for specialized admissions status does the program meet?

- Limited Resources (if approved, the status will last a maximum of four years)
- Minimal Skills (if approved, the status will last a maximum of five years)
- Accreditation Requirements (If checked, you must also select either limited resources or minimal skills)

The IDS undergraduate degree program meets the criteria for minimal skills. All applicants must achieve at least a 3.0 UF GPA before applying for this IDS major. Transfer students and students who enter the University from a qualified Florida College System Associates in Arts degree program must complete at least one term at the University to establish the UF GPA. Students apply for the major as either a rising sophomore, or at the beginning their junior term. Transfer students apply as rising juniors. Two deadlines for applications are provided in both the fall and spring terms providing ample time for students to decide and act on their decision to apply. In addition, all applicants must identify at least two different disciplines in which they will complete their upper division studies and have two faculty members, one from each discipline, to serve as sponsors. Students provide a research proposal or

portfolio, depending on the discipline, as part of the application for review by the IDS committee. Students who meet all criteria are accepted into the undergraduate degree program.

3. Provide a rationale for why the program meets the criteria selected above.
  - If the program is seeking specialized admissions status due to limited resources, provide details regarding which types of resources are limited and how the current demand for the program outpaces these resources.
  - If seeking specialized admission status based on accrediting body requirements, please include the name of the accrediting body and a direct link to or copies of the specific standard(s) which require the requested status.

The Interdisciplinary Studies program meets the criteria of minimal skills by virtue of the minimum 3.0 UF GPA requirement in addition to the requirement of faculty sponsorship and committee approval.

4. If the program is seeking specialized admissions status due to limited resources and/or is a Program of Strategic Emphasis, provide the institution's plan and timeline for increasing program resources. If the institution does not plan to increase capacity over the next few years, please provide a rationale.  Not applicable.
5. If approved for specialized admissions status, what will be the program's admissions requirements? Additionally, please indicate how these requirements and procedures ensure equal access for qualified Florida College System Associates in Arts graduates competing for available space in the program.

If approved, the IDS major program will continue with the admission requirements of a 3.0 UF GPA, faculty sponsorship, and acceptance through the IDS Committee which consists of faculty members in multiple disciplines. Space is not limited for any of the specialization tracks. except for Biological Illustration. The limit in this specialization is confined to art studio space availability. The requirements and procedures do not limit student's accessibility to the major providing they meet the academic requirements. Qualified Florida College System Associates in Arts graduates do not compete with other students for space in the program. Instead, all specializations are open to all incoming and transfer students who choose to apply for the program.

6. What is the current race and gender profile of the program? Describe the potential impact on the race and gender profiles of the program. What strategies will be implemented to promote and maintain diversity in the program?

The current race and gender profile for the program:

**Gender**

Female 63.64%

Male 36.36%

**Race/Ethnicity**

White 41.12%

Hispanic/Latino: 31.78%

Asian: 11.21%

Black: 3.74%

Two or more races: 6.54%

American Indian/Alaska native: 0.93%

Other: 4.68%

The Interdisciplinary Studies major is a self-selected major by students whose academic and professional goals are not met by a traditional degree program, or, by students who have an academic and professional interest in two or more disciplines. The program is promoted through its website which features testimonials from diverse genders and race. Each of the established tracks have a director who interacts with students who express an interest in the program. Because it is a self-selected program, it attracts a diverse set of students. Neither gender nor race are considered as a determining factor, nor is this information requested in the application process.

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### Required Signatures

*Margaret U. Fields*

Requestor/Initiator

July 7, 2022

Date

*Patricia Nichols*

Signature of College Dean

7/7/2022

Date

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Signature of Campus EO Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Provost

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chair of the  
Board of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved by the Board of Trustees