INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

- Program of Study at a Florida Community/Junior College or SUS School for Students Planning to Transfer to USF (State Mandated Common Prerequisites)
  Students wishing to transfer to USF should complete the A.A. degree at the community college. Some courses required for the major may also meet General Education Requirements thereby transferring maximum hours to the university. A minimum of 60 semester hours must be completed at the university unless prior approval is secured. If students transfer without an A.A. degree and have fewer than 60 semester hours of acceptable credit, the student must meet the university’s entering freshman requirements including ACT or SAT test scores, GPA, and course requirements.

  There are no State Mandated Common Prerequisites for this degree program.

- Admission Requirements to the University Program of Study
  Please be aware of the immunization, foreign language, and continuous enrollment policies of the university.

- Bachelor of Independent Studies (BIS)
The Bachelor of Independent Studies (BIS) Program is the State University System External Degree Program. The universities currently involved are Florida Community College, Florida State University, the University of Florida, the University of South Florida, and the University of North Florida. The administrative office for the statewide program is located at USF in Tampa.

  Founded in 1988, the external degree program is for adults who find it difficult to attend regular university classes because of career or family commitments. The BIS student proceeds at his/her own pace and, for the most part, in his/her own setting. The exception is the summer seminars which require periodic, short-term campus residence.

  Curriculum
  The curriculum consists of four study areas: the Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Inter-area Study. The first three areas of study are completed through a tutorial and a resident seminar. While the seminar is of short duration, the tutorial for each area requires a longer commitment of time. The student may begin in any of the first three study areas and is encouraged to start in his/her area of strength.

  Tutorials
  The tutorial or guided independent study is predominantly print intensive, with core and suggested readings drawn from the BIS Guide to Independent Studies. In the Humanities tutorial, for example, the student reads across the disciplines of the Humanities Study Area which include Language, Literature, Philosophy, Art, Drama, and Architecture. Selected works are reviewed within the framework of historical periods. Tutorial objectives include knowledge of the basic principles of each of the genres and periods, the ability to visualize relationships between the disciplines, grasp of the nomenclature of the disciplines, and the capacity to apply basic concepts to current issues. The student is responsible for systematic interaction with the faculty mentor who directs the reading process and evaluates the student’s progress.

  In the Natural Sciences tutorial, the BIS learner studies Science -- Science for the non-scientist. Emphasis is placed on the interrelationships of the disciplines of Science. Topics illustrative of this interdisciplinary approach to Sciences include Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Astronomy, Geology, Ecology, History, and Philosophy of Science, and the impact of Science on Technology. As is the case with other tutorials the learning objectives involve concepts, nomenclature, cross-disciplinary insights, and application of concepts/methods to current issues.

  Seminar activities also vary with the study area. A visit to a museum or art gallery goes with a Humanities Seminar. In Science, laboratory experiences and field trips are utilized to show students the ways of Science and to allow them to experience the excitement of discovery. Many of these activities are described in a Social Sciences seminar syllabus. The seminar faculty focus on the knowledge gained in the tutorial with an emphasis on synthesis, extension, and application of this learning to selected topics such as energy, patterns of human behavior, and human rights.

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