



Interdisciplinary Studies



Overview

For over 35 years, students in the Upstate of South Carolina have found the flexibility of the interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) program provides an effective path to their academic and career goals. The IDS program is designed to respond to the growing economic and cultural diversity of the Upstate and the increasing complexity of a global economy. With more than 250 students majoring in the program, IDS is an exciting and dynamic degree program that gives students creative options for designing individualized courses of study. Students may also choose to participate in the Three-Plus-One Program, which allows them to earn a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree by completing 90 hours at USC Upstate and 30 semester hours (one year) of coursework at an approved, accredited professional school like Sherman College of Chiropractic. From freshmen to students completing their degree, the IDS major is available to students at all levels of their academic careers.

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies

The Center for Interdisciplinary Studies offers the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies. With the support of an advisor, Interdisciplinary Studies provides students the opportunity to broaden their education by developing a multidisciplinary or individualized degree program to meet their educational and career goals. Students may take courses in all disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences and in the George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics as well as a number of courses in the School of Education. A minimum of 30 hours must be completed at USC Upstate after acceptance into the IDS program.

From the moment students step on campus, they feel the energy of a dynamic university. The University of South Carolina Upstate, a senior comprehensive public institution of the University of South Carolina, is one of the leading metropolitan universities in the Southeast and is ranked number one by *U.S. News and World Report* in the Public Regional Colleges—South category.

USC Upstate is among the fastest growing universities in South Carolina — with a 330-acre campus in Spartanburg, a junior and senior-level commuter campus at the University Center Greenville, and the George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics in downtown Spartanburg. Home to 5,500 students from 36 states and 51 nations, USC Upstate offers degree programs in the liberal arts and sciences, business administration, nursing and teacher education, as well as master's degrees in education and informatics.

USC Upstate provides activities that mirror those of larger universities, but in a more personal environment. There are more than 70 active student organizations on campus, including performance groups, special interest groups, student-run media and 12 nationally affiliated sororities and fraternities. The University fields 17 athletic teams—known as the Spartans—which compete in the NCAA Division I Atlantic Sun Conference. Want challenging, first-rate academic courses, small class sizes, social and cultural diversity, and a dynamic campus life? Look no further than USC Upstate.

Career Opportunities

Our global society presents multi-dimensional challenges and opportunities that are too complex to be addressed only by individual disciplines. Increasingly, businesses seek employees who are educated across several disciplines, can see connections among broad ranges of concepts, can approach a problem from multiple perspectives, and are adaptable to a changing world. The IDS degree is designed to meet these needs.

Through multiple paths of study, a degree in interdisciplinary studies affords students career opportunities in a wide variety of fields including social services, writing, education, management, the arts and public health. A bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies can provide an excellent background for graduate study in fields such as law, medicine and social work; additional coursework in education could lead to teacher certification.

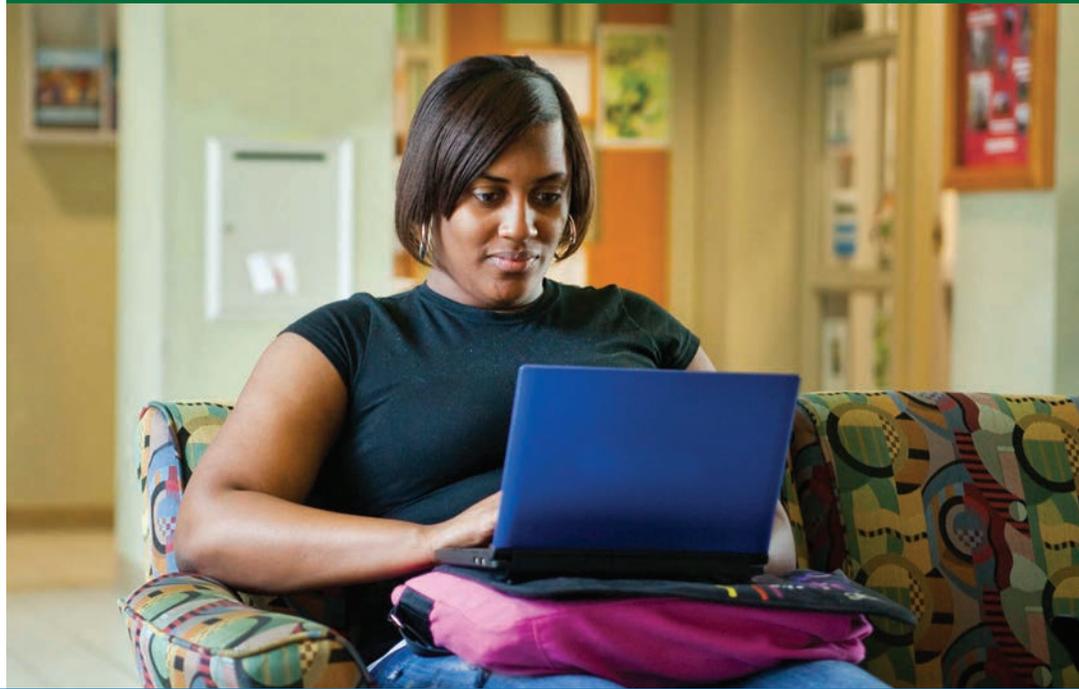
Internship Opportunities

Internships provide students with experiential learning opportunities that enhance their marketable skills and can lead to employment. Completion of an internship can be advantageous when applying to graduate school. Internship opportunities abound for IDS students and include placement in areas such as nonprofit administration, communications, the media, sports management, healthcare, law enforcement/public safety and the legal profession.

Alumni Spotlight

Steve Fitzmaurice, who graduated from USC Upstate in December 2005 with a B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, exemplifies the benefits of an interdisciplinary studies degree. At Upstate, Steve's academic concentrations were Nonprofit Administration and Communication Studies. While a student at Upstate, Steve managed a large grant for the South Carolina Association of the Deaf (SCAD). Steve also worked for the South Carolina Department of Education as a consultant for statewide interpreting services. At the Department of Education he conducted research involving employees working under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to determine current practices in South Carolina school districts. In 2009, Steve earned his Master of Interpreter Pedagogy degree from Northeastern University. The purpose of this master's program is to prepare individuals to teach others to be sign language interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing. In his graduate work, Steve conducted research on the teaching goals of interpreter educators. Steve currently is pursuing a doctorate in curriculum and instruction at Clemson University where he is a visiting assistant professor of languages and the lead faculty member for their interpreter education program.

"The interdisciplinary studies program at USC Upstate allowed me to use my experience, expertise and interests to build a degree program that had value for my future goals. There was no other four-year degree program that met my needs. When I interviewed for a position with the South Carolina Department of Education, the fact that I had an IDS background was viewed as a real asset. The courses that I had in Nonprofit Administration at Upstate, especially those in nonprofit budgeting and grant writing, were invaluable to me when I managed the SCAD grant. And I continue to use the Communication Studies course work, particularly the course in public relations and persuasion, in my work at Clemson. In IDS I could make my own degree program."



Center for Interdisciplinary Studies
800 University Way, Spartanburg, SC 29303
Phone: 864-503-5703 Fax: 864-503-5721

USC Upstate Greenville Campus
225 South Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC 29607

UPSTATE

www.uscupstate.edu