



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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Proposal for a New Degree Program

I. Information and Rationale

A. Primary Contact Information

Institution: University of Alabama in Huntsville

Contact: Dr. David Puleo

Title: Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Email: dap0045@uah.edu

Telephone: (256) 824-6337

B. Program Information

Date of Proposal Submission: 9/10/2024

Award Level: Bachelor's Degree

Award Nomenclature (e.g., BS, MBA): BA

Field of Study/Program Title: Interdisciplinary Studies

CIP Code (6-digit): 30.0000

C. Implementation Information

Proposed Program Implementation Date: Fall 2025

Anticipated Date of Approval from Institutional Governing Board: 11/8/2024

Anticipated Date of ACHE Meeting to Vote on Proposal: 3/7/2025

SACSCOC Sub Change Requirement (Notification, Approval, or NA): Notification

Other Considerations for Timing and Approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review):

D. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for the Program

List 3 – 5 strengths of the proposed program as specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal.

1. Most challenging real-world problems require solutions that bring together important ideas across disciplines. Students in this program will learn how to think and solve problems in an interdisciplinary way, not simply be exposed to concepts from multiple disciplines.
2. The degree program gives students the flexibility to explore issues not typically covered in traditional single-discipline degrees and to tailor their curriculum to help achieve their career goals.



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3. The Science/Technology in Human Context track provides a foundation for students to understand how our changing world impacts human potential and welfare, and to create a future that will maximize the benefits to our lives and future generations.
4. The program builds upon and will strengthen existing interdisciplinary programs by providing a new degree pathway.
5. The program provides a structure for growing new, innovative interdisciplinary tracks that are responsive to workforce needs and emerging disciplines.

List external entities (more may be added) that may have supplied letters of support attesting to the program's strengths and attach letters with the proposal at the end of this document.

II. Background with Context

A. Concise Program Description

Include general opportunities for work-based and/or experiential learning, if applicable.

Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) provides a curriculum that enables students to speak to issues of current national and international significance from a variety of perspectives. Rather than a catchall degree or a degree for returning or nontraditional students, a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies provides training and experience in complex problem-solving using tools from different disciplines. It is designed for traditional college students with diverse interests and/or career goals that do not align with existing disciplinary programs. The program's core curriculum, thematic tracks, and electives provide students with depth of knowledge, practical skills, and critical thinking to address the major problems of the modern world. This skills-focused rather than subject-focused education provides both flexibility and structure for students as well as a cohesive intellectual experience rather than a random assemblage of classes.

The program's main objectives are to:

1. Enable student curiosity and intellectual exploration.
2. Empower students to design a course of study that fits their interests and needs.
3. Develop practical skills that are desirable to employers.
4. Provide flexibility but also intellectual cohesion/structure.

The B.A. is 36 credit hours and part of a standard 120 credit hour degree and consists of the following:

1. Core classes provide structure to the program and promote skills that are valuable regardless of career path. The IDS core curriculum consists of:
 - i. An introductory class that provides students with core principles of interdisciplinary study and introduces students to CAHS departments and programs (IDS 200) (3 credit hours)
 - ii. Public Speaking (CM 113) (3 credit hours)
 - iii. Academic Writing (EH 340) (3 credit hours)
 - iv. Research and Methodology (3 credit hours)



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- a. This requirement can be fulfilled by several different course options, including Interdisciplinary Research Methods and Applications (existing PRO 498) or a discipline-specific methodology class in either humanities or social sciences, such as:
 - Communications: Comm Research Methods (CM 370)
 - History: Craft of History (HY 300)
 - Sociology: Research Methods (SOC 301) or Statistics/Social Sciences (SOC 303) + Lab (SOC 304)
 - Psychology: Psychological Statistics (PY 300) + Lab (PY 304) or Research Methods for Psych (PY 302) + Lab (PY 305)
- v. A capstone where students complete either a research/creative project or a professional experience (internship, service-learning opportunity) (3 credit hours)
 - This requirement can be cross-listed with PRO 499, Capstone Experience.

The core curriculum is 15 credit hours, 9 of which are at 300+ level.

2. Electives: Twenty-one credit hours will consist of electives connected with one of the proposed tracks, which allow students to combine courses from several disciplines in creative ways, or electives that the student proposes in order to create their own thematic concentration (with administrative approval). Most discipline-specific majors in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHS) require 9-15 credit hours of electives at the 300+ level. Additionally, UAH requires that thirty percent of total degree requirements must be taken at the 300 level or higher. To fulfill the IDS electives requirement, three classes will be required at the 300+ level (9 credit hours) and two will be required at the 400 level (6 credit hours). Roughly two-thirds of the IDS major will consist of 300 and 400 level classes.

3. Proposed tracks include:

i. Science/Technology in Human Context:

This B.A. program combines broad training in the humanities and social sciences with an emphasis on the role of science and technology in human society, past, present, and future. The program will promote scientific literacy as well as equip graduates with the critical thinking and problem-solving skills to evaluate the place of science and technology in the modern world and envision new ideas for the future. Students will draw classes from a range of disciplines, including Art, Communication, English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology, and have the possibility to include classes from the Colleges of Science and Engineering. Students may choose to focus on topics such as AI creation and usage, human impacts on natural and built environments, and the ethical impacts of science, technology, and/or medicine.

Please see attached addendum for a list of existing CAHS classes that could contribute to this track.

ii. Interdisciplinary Track:

This B.A. program is ideal for students that want to draw from multiple disciplines that already have an established curriculum. For example:



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- A student may combine minors in History and Political Science to create a pre-law style curriculum.
- A student may combine minors in User Experience and Web Communications to specialize in web/product/service design.
- A student may combine minors in Art and Theater to graduate with a creative/performance degree.

iii. Individually Designed Track:

This B.A. track would be reserved for exceptional students that have specific objectives for their education that are not met by traditional majors/minors or existing tracks. Students will submit a proposal in which they identify a unifying theme, relevant courses, and a faculty advisor (with their consent) to be approved by a faculty committee.

4. Required Minor:

CAHS requires that students have an academic minor (typically 21 credit hours). To complete this requirement, the student will select a minor that complements, rather than overlaps with, their IDS major concentrations. A student completing the Interdisciplinary Track (option 2) will not be able to minor in one of the two disciplines/programs chosen for the major. For example, a student completing an IDS degree in History and Political Science will need an additional minor, such as in Philosophy or Global Studies.

B. Student Learning Outcomes

List four (4) to seven (7) of the student learning outcomes of the program.

1. Student will identify interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving.
2. Student will communicate clearly through speaking.
3. Student will communicate clearly in writing.
4. Student will display critical thinking skills.
5. Student will demonstrate the ability to conduct interdisciplinary research (scholarly, experiential, or creative).

C. Administration of the Program

Name of Dean and College: Sean Lane, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Name of Department/Division: Interdisciplinary Studies

Name of Chairperson: Nicole Pacino

D. Similar Programs at Other Alabama Public Institutions

List programs at other Alabama public institutions of the same degree level and the same (or similar) CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, list similar programs offered within the 16 SREB states. If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, provide justification for any potential duplication.



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CIP Code	Degree Title	Institution with Similar Program	Justification for Duplication
30.0000	BA in Interdisciplinary Studies	UA	<p>This degree is part of the New College and is geared towards either individualized courses of study through "self-directed studies and out of class learning experiences" for unusually motivated or independent students (https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/new-college/) or for returning or nontraditional students through its LifeTrack program. We are proposing an IDS major that provides both a set core curriculum and individual flexibility, with specific tracks for students to follow. Only our "Individually Designed Track" is similar to the UA program for traditional students, therefore our degree does not duplicate the UA program.</p>
30.0000	BA in Interdisciplinary Studies	UNA	<p>UNA has the closest equivalent program in the sense that they offer a B.A. and serve both traditional and nontraditional students, but their core areas of focus are different from our proposal. For instance, their core curriculum is limited to an introductory class, a research class, and a capstone, without the emphasis on skill building in speaking, writing, and methodology we are proposing. Additionally, their program tracks are broad, whereas ours are tailored towards specific skill sets that will provide students with a degree with a recognizable or marketable title.</p>

E. Relationship to Existing Programs within the Institution

1. Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings within the institution, including options within current degree programs? **Yes** **No**



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(Note: Most new programs have some relationship to existing offerings, e.g., through shared courses or resources). If yes, complete the following table. If this is a graduate program, list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's programs.

Related Degree Program Level	Related Degree Program Title	Explanation of the Relationship Between the Programs
B.A.	Professional Studies (PRO)	PRO and IDS will share some course offerings and faculty.
B.A.	Art, Art History, and Design	Art/Art History/Design classes can count towards IDS tracks.
B.A.	Communication Arts	Communication classes can count towards IDS tracks.
B.A.	English	English classes can count towards IDS tracks.
B.A.	History	History classes can count towards IDS tracks.
B.A.	Music	Music classes can count towards IDS tracks.
B.A.	Philosophy	Philosophy classes can count towards IDS tracks.
B.A.	Political Science	Political Science classes can count towards IDS tracks.
B.A.	Psychology	Psychology classes can count towards IDS tracks.
B.A.	Sociology	Sociology classes can count towards IDS tracks.
B.A.	Theater	Theater classes can count towards IDS tracks.
B.A.	World Languages and Cultures (WLC)	WLC classes can count towards IDS tracks.

2. Will this program replace any existing programs or specializations, options, or concentrations? **Yes** **No**

If yes, please explain.

3. Will the program compete with any current internal offerings? **Yes** **No**

If yes, please explain.

F. Collaboration

Have collaborations with other institutions or external entities been explored? **Yes** **No**

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program.



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Have any collaborations within your institution been explored?

Yes No

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program.

The B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) will support already existing interdisciplinary minor programs in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHS) by supplying a core framework of interdisciplinary classes from which one can build on in pursuit of a Global Studies or User Experience minor, for example. For instance, already existing interdisciplinary minors could become majors with additional coursework under the IDS framework. As is the nature of Interdisciplinary Studies broadly, numerous programs will support an IDS major. Courses in English (Academic Writing) and Communication Arts (Public Speaking) will be part of the core curriculum. Existing Professional Studies classes in interdisciplinary thinking and research will also support the program's core curriculum. Electives will be pulled from a variety of CAHS major programs. The IDS Director has discussed these ideas with an advisory group of interdisciplinary faculty, program coordinators, and department chairs.

G. Specialized Accreditation

1. Will this program have any external accreditation requirements in addition to the institution's SACSCOC program requirements?

Yes No

If yes, list the name(s) of the specialized accrediting organization(s) and the anticipated timeframe of the application process.

2. Does your institution intend to pursue any other non-required accrediting organizations for the program?*

Yes No

If yes, list the name(s) of the organization(s) and the purpose of the pursuit.

If there are plans to pursue non-required external accreditation at a later date, list the name(s) and why the institution is not pursuing them at this time.

Note: Check No to indicate that non-required external accreditation will not be pursued, which requires no explanation.

H. Admissions

Will this program have any additional admissions requirements beyond the institution's standard admissions process/policies for this degree level?

Yes No

If yes, describe any other special admissions or curricular requirements, including any prior education or work experience required for acceptance into the program.



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I. Mode of Delivery

Provide the planned delivery format(s) (*i.e.*, in-person, online, hybrid) of the program as defined in policy along with the planned location(s) at which the program will be delivered (*i.e.*, on-campus and/or at specific off-campus instructional site(s)). Please also note whether any program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

Classes will be provided in in-person, online, and hybrid formats. In-person meetings will take place on the UAH campus. The program will follow the standard procedure for allowing transfer credit and/or competency-based assessment for credit.

J. Projected Program Demand (Student Demand)

Briefly describe the primary method(s) used to determine the level of student demand for this program using evidence, such as enrollments in related coursework at the institution, or a survey of student interest conducted (indicate the survey instrument used), number and percentage of respondents, and summary of results.

A quick survey of over 60 students, mostly but not exclusively CAHS students, demonstrated a high level of interest in interdisciplinary programs, with 87.5% of respondents selecting 3 or higher on a 1-5 scale (with 1 being little interest and 5 being a lot of interest). Half of respondents selected 3 or higher in relation to a question about their likelihood of pursuing an interdisciplinary major program if one existed. Additionally, respondents indicated that they thought interdisciplinary studies would add value to UAH, with 87.5% of respondents selecting a 4 or 5 on a 1-5 scale (with 1 being little value and 5 being a lot of value). When asked to supply comments, respondents added:

- "This is so exciting!! I hope it comes about sooner than later."
- "I think interdisciplinary studies would benefit the community in a variety of ways, such as creating more well rounded citizens by challenging students to apply their knowledge across multiple disciplines. I would love to see UAH offer this."
- "I think an Interdisciplinary Studies major would bring much needed variation/customization to the already available CAHS majors."

Several respondents also supplied ideas for how they would integrate an IDS program with their Engineering or Science degrees.

Current interdisciplinary programs, offered as academic minors, are viable and interdisciplinary classes are full every semester (generally 30-40 students per class).

III. Program Resource Requirements

A. Proposed Program Faculty*

Current Faculty and Faculty to Be Hired

Complete the following **New Academic Degree Proposal Faculty Roster** to provide a brief summary and qualifications of current faculty and potential new hires specific to the program.



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***Note:** Institutions must maintain and have current as well as additional faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but CVs are **not** to be submitted with this proposal.

Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Nicole Pacino (FT)	HY and IDS classes as needed, such as HY 300: Craft of History, 3 credits (UT)	Ph.D. History, M.A. Latin American Studies, B.A. Conflict Studies	
Kellee Crawford (PT)	Fall 2024, PRO 320/IDS 200: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies, and EH 340: Academic Writing, 3 credits (UT)	M.A. English, Senior Program Coordinator for Professional Studies	
Melissa Morphew (FT)	Fall 2024, PRO 498: Interdisciplinary Research, and PRO 499: Capstone Research, 3 credits (UT)	Ph.D. English, M.A. English, B.S. Elementary Education	
Derek Koehl (PT)	Fall 2024, AHS 250: Artificial Intelligence in Human and Social Context, 3 credits (UT)	M.A. Education, M.A. History, M.A. Psychology, Ph.D. student in Psychology, Computational linguistics research associate in the Earth System Science Center	
Nur Makbul (FT)•	Fall 2024, CM 113: Public Speaking, 3 credits (UT)	Ph.D. Communications, M.A. Communication Studies, M.S. Mass Communication and Journalism	*Representative of faculty that would teach core IDS classes
Robert Thomson (FT)•	Fall 2024, SOC 303: Statistics/Social Sciences and SOC 304: Statistics Lab, 3 credits, (UT)	Ph.D. Sociology, M.A. Sociology, M.A. Theological Studies	*Representative of faculty that would teach core IDS classes



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Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Nicholaos Jones (FT)**	Fall 2024, PHL 311: Philosophy of Science, 3 credits (UT)	Ph.D. Philosophy, M.A. Philosophy	**Representative of faculty that would teach classes for the Science/Technology in Human Context track
Eric Smith (FT)**	Fall 2024, EH 246: Speculative Realities	Ph.D. English, M.A. English	**Representative of faculty that would teach classes for the Science/Technology in Human Context track
Additional Faculty (To Be Hired)			
1	2	3	4
FACULTY POSITION (FT, PT)	COURSES TO BE TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)

Abbreviations: (FT, PT): Full-Time, Part-Time; (D, UN, UT, G, DU): Developmental, Undergraduate Nontransferable, Undergraduate Transferable, Graduate, Dual: High School Dual Enrollment
Course Modality: (IP, OL, HY, OCIS): In-Person, Online, Hybrid, Off-Campus Instructional Site
Courses Taught/To be Taught – For a substantive change prospectus/application, list the courses *to be taught*, not historical teaching assignments.



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B. All Proposed Program Personnel

Provide all personnel counts for the proposed program.

Employment Status of Program Personnel		Personnel Information		
		Count from Proposed Program Department	Count from Other Departments	Subtotal of Personnel
Current	Full-Time Faculty	2		2
	Part-Time Faculty			
	Administration	1		1
	Support Staff	1		1
**New To Be Hired	Full-Time Faculty			
	Part-Time Faculty			
	Administration			
	Support Staff			
			Personnel Total	4

****Note: Any new funds** designated for compensation costs (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff to be Hired) **should be included** in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**. Current personnel salary/benefits (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff) **should not be included** in the **Business Plan**.

Provide justification that the institution has proposed a sufficient number of faculty (full-time and part-time) for the proposed program to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review.

UAH currently has one designated administrative head for IDS, the director, and one designated support staff. Classes taught by faculty in a variety of existing disciplines will constitute the core and electives of the program. Since the program builds on already existing courses, the program has sufficient faculty resources to support the program. The IDS director, working with the IDS Program Advisory Committee and the Dean's office, will ensure curriculum and program quality and will complete program review and assessment.

C. Equipment

Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program?

Yes No

If yes, list the special equipment. Special equipment cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.



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D. Facilities

Will any new facilities be required specifically for the program?

Yes No

If yes, list only **new** facilities. New facilities cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Will any renovations to any existing infrastructure be required specifically for the program?

Yes No

If yes, list the renovations. Renovation costs should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

E. Assistantships/Fellowships

Will the institution offer any assistantships specifically for this program?

Yes No

If yes, how many assistantships will be offered?

The expenses associated with any *new* assistantships should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

F. Library

Provide a brief summarization (one to two paragraphs) describing the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program.

Will additional library resources be required to support the program?

Yes No

If yes, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied, and include the cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Existing library collections are sufficient to support the program. The director also has the opportunity to apply for library grants through the UAH Humanities Center to expand the collection as needed.

G. Accreditation Expenses

Will the proposed program require accreditation expenses?

Yes No

If yes, briefly describe the estimated cost and funding source(s) and include cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

H. Other Costs

Please explain any other costs to be incurred with program implementation, such as marketing or recruitment costs. Be sure to note these in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.



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N/A – no other costs anticipated

I. Revenues for Program Support

Will the proposed program require budget reallocation? Yes No

If yes, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Will the proposed program require external funding (e.g., Perkins, Foundation, Federal Grants, Sponsored Research, etc.)? Yes No

If yes, list the sources of external funding and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Please describe how you calculated the tuition revenue that appears in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**. Specifically, did you calculate using cost per credit hour or per term? Did you factor in differences between resident and non-resident tuition rates?

Tuition revenue was calculated using the current annual resident tuition for full-time students (\$10,374, or \$5,187 per term). This current tuition rate was applied to each year, assuming no increase in tuition. In-state resident tuition was used because it applies to the majority of UAH undergraduate students.

IV. Employment Outcomes and Program Demand (Industry Need)

A. Standard Occupational Code System

Using the federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System, indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOCs can be found at <https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17>.

A list of Alabama’s *In-Demand Occupations* is available at <https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>.

- SOC 1 (required): 11-9151.00 (Social and Community Service Managers)
- SOC 2 (optional): 15-2051.01 (Business Intelligence Analysts)
- SOC 3 (optional): 13-1111.00 (Management Analysts)
- SOC 4 (optional): 27-3099.00 (Media and Communication Workers)
- SOC 5 (optional): 15-1254.00 (Web Developers)
- SOC 6 (optional): 15-1255.00 (Web and Digital Interface Designers)



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Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. As appropriate, discuss alignment with Alabama's Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>) or with emerging industries as identified by [Innovate Alabama](#) or the [Economic Development Partnership of Alabama](#) (EDPA).

The proposed B.A. program will equip students with skills that are flexible and in-demand, specifically related to information technology and data literacy (important emerging industries according to the Innovate Alabama and the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama websites), arts and communications (on the list of Alabama's Statewide List of In-Demand Occupations for 2023-2024), and data analysis. Students will gain experience with public speaking, writing, research methods, and critical reading skills. Other skills gained will be tailored to the student's subject of study, and through advising and mentoring we can pair a student's education to the emerging industry and employment opportunities available in Alabama.

B. Employment Preparation

Describe how the proposed program prepares graduates to seek employment in the occupations ([SOC codes](#)) identified.

As stated above, students will gain experience with public speaking, writing, research methods, and critical reading skills. These are in-demand skills across a variety of industries. Due to the flexible nature of the IDS B.A., a student can tailor their educational experience to their career goals and existing employment opportunities. A multidisciplinary background in arts, humanities, and social sciences equips students with skills necessary to work as part of a team, manage people, and engage in community development and therefore seek employment as social and community service managers (SOC 1 above – listed as a track with a “bright outlook” on the O-Net SOC code website). It also trains people in data gathering, analyzing patterns and trends, and forward thinking, therefore creating ideal graduates for Business Intelligence Analysts (SOC 2 above listed as a track with a “bright outlook” on the O-Net SOC code website) or Management Analysts (SOC 3 above - on the list of Alabama's Statewide List of In-Demand Occupations for 2024). With the IDS B.A. core coursework in research, writing, public speaking, and interdisciplinary methodology, graduates will be poised to pursue opportunities in media and communication (SOC 4 above). Additionally, a student with a combined User Experience and Web Communications degree will have the requisite experience with programming, design, and content to seek employment in web development (SOC 5 or 6 above).

Furthermore, the IDS director will work closely with the CAHS internship director, who also teaches classes on Career Preparation and Training (AHS 300) and workshops on resume preparation and interviewing, to ensure that our graduates can effectively present their skills to potential employers.

C. Professional Licensure/Certification

Please explain if professional licensure or industry certification is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected. Be sure to note which organization(s) grants licensure or certification.

N/A



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D. Additional Education/Training

Please explain whether further education/training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected.

N/A

V. Curriculum Information for Proposed Degree Program

A. Program Completion Requirements: Enter the credit hour value for all applicable components (enter N/A if not applicable).

Curriculum Overview of Proposed Program	
Credit hours required in general education	41
Credit hours required in program courses	12
Credit hours in program electives/concentrations/tracks	21
Credit hours in required minor	21
Credit hours in free electives	22
Credit hours in required research/thesis	3
Total Credit Hours Required for Completion	120

Note: The above credit hours **MUST** match the credit hours in the *Curriculum Components of Proposed Program* table in Section V.G.

B. Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program:

Fifty percent of the credits must be generated at UAH, therefore fifty percent of credits may be transferred in, for a maximum of 60 credits.

C. Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students:

The program is intended to be completed in a traditional timeline (8 semesters).

D. Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students:

This depends on how many classes the student takes in a semester, probably between 10 and 16 semesters.

E. Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, structured [work-based learning](#) with an employer partner, or alignment with nationally recognized industry standards? **Yes** **No**

If yes, explain how these components fit with the required coursework.



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F. Does the program include any concentrations? **Yes** **No**

If yes, provide an overview and identify these courses in the *Electives/Concentrations/Tracks* section in the Curriculum Components of Proposed Program Table in Section V.G.

Proposed IDS tracks include:

1. Science/Technology in Human Context:

This B.A. program combines broad training in the humanities and social sciences with an emphasis of the role of science and technology in human society, past, present, and future. The program will promote scientific literacy as well as equip graduates with the critical thinking and problem-solving skills to evaluate the place of science and technology in the modern world and envision new ideas for the future. Students will draw classes from a range of disciplines, including Art, Communication, English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology, and have the possibility to include classes from the Colleges of Science and Engineering. Students may choose to focus on topics such as AI creation and usage, human impacts on natural and built environments, and the ethical impacts of science, technology, and/or medicine.

Please see attached addendum for a list of existing classes that could contribute to this track.

2. Interdisciplinary Track:

This B.A. track is ideal for students that want to draw from multiple disciplines that already have an established curriculum. For example:

- A student may combine minors in History and Political Science to create a pre-law style curriculum.
- A student may combine minors in User Experience and Web Communications to specialize in web/product/service design.
- A student may combine minors in Art and Theater to graduate with a creative/performance degree.

3. Individually Designed Track:

This B.A. program would be reserved for exceptional students that have specific objectives for their education that are not met by traditional majors/minors or existing tracks. Students will submit a proposal in which they identify a unifying theme, relevant courses, and a faculty advisor (with their consent) to be approved by a faculty committee.

G. Please provide all course information as indicated in the following table. Indicate new courses with “Y” in the associated column. If the course includes a required work-based learning component, such as an internship or practicum course, please indicate with a “Y” in the WBL column.



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Program Name:	Interdisciplinary Studies			
Program Level:	BA			
Curriculum Components of Proposed Program				
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New? (Y)	WBL? (Y)
General Education Courses (Undergraduate Only)				
	Freshman Composition	3-6		
	Fine Arts	3		
	Humanities (literature)	3		
	Humanities (non-literature)	3		
	Humanities (fine arts)	3		
	Mathematics	3-4		
	Natural Sciences (lab)	8		
	History	3		
	Social and Behavioral Sciences (non-history)	6		
	History/Social and Behavioral Sciences	3		
Program Courses				
IDS/PRO 200	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies	3		
EH 340	Academic Writing	3		
CM 113	Public Speaking	3		
	Methodology (can be filled by various classes)	3		
Program Electives/Concentrations/Tracks				
	Science/Technology and Human Context	21		
	Combine Two Minors	21		
	Design Your Own	21		
	Required Minor	21		
	Free Electives	22		
Research/Thesis				
IDS/PRO 499	Capstone Experience	3		
*Total Credit Hours Required for Completion		120		

***Note:** The total credit hours should equal the total credit hours in the Curriculum Overview table (V.B, p. 9).



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

Addendum:

Existing CAHS Courses for the Science and Technology in Human Context Track

AHS 250, Artificial Intelligence in Human and Social Contexts

ARH 306, Collapse of Civilizations

ARH 412, Early Modern Print, 1450-1800

ARH 413, Art and the Apocalypse

ARS 210, Game Design: Introduction

ARS 220, Animation: Introduction

ARS 230, Graphic Design: Introduction

CM 430, Mass Media in America

CM 435, Social Media

CM 442/EH 442, Usability Studies

CM 452/EH 452, User-Centered Design

EH 246, Speculative Realities

EH 434, Science Fiction

HY 368, American Environmental History

HY 370, Technology in American History

HY 383, Food and World History

HY 451, Science and Religion in History

PHL 102, Introduction to Ethics

PHL 150, Tech, Science, and Human Values

PHL 311, Philosophy of Science

PY 101, General Psychology 1

PY 403, Human Factors Psychology

SOC 335, Sociology of Health and Medicine

ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

INSTITUTION:	University of Alabama in Huntsville		
PROGRAM NAME:	Interdisciplinary Studies	CIP CODE:	30
SELECT LEVEL:	UNDERGRADUATE (BACHELOR'S)		

ESTIMATED *NEW* EXPENSES TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROGRAM

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
FACULTY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ADMINISTRATION/STAFF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EQUIPMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ASSISTANTSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIBRARY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ACCREDITATION AND OTHER COSTS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

***NEW* REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
EXTERNAL FUNDING	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TUITION + FEES	\$0	\$62,244	\$93,366	\$134,862	\$155,610	\$186,732	\$248,976	\$881,790
TOTAL REVENUES	\$0	\$62,244	\$93,366	\$134,862	\$155,610	\$186,732	\$248,976	\$881,790

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	No data reporting	5	8	12	14	16	22	12.83
PART-TIME ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		1	1	1	1	2	2	1.33
TOTAL ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		6	9	13	15	18	24	14.17
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT		5	6	8	11	13	18	10.17
Validation of Enrollment			YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	

DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS

Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the average annual degree completions.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	No data reporting	2	4	5	10	12	15	8.00



**Board Rule 502
New Program Proposal Supplement**

In addition to the items ACHE has requested for program proposals, please include the following additional items when developing and submitting academic program proposals to the System Office and the Board of Trustees for approval.

1. Institution:

- UAH

2. Program Identification

<i>Program Name:</i>	Interdisciplinary Studies
<i>Degree Nomenclature:</i>	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
<i>Date of NPP Submission:</i>	April 8, 2024

3. CIP Code

<i>2-digit CIP Code:</i>	30 MULTI/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
<i>4-digit CIP Code:</i>	30 MULTI/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES ~ 30.00 Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, General
<i>6-digit CIP Code:</i>	30 MULTI/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES ~ 30.00 Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, General ~ 30.0000 Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, General

4. Executive Summary (not to exceed two pages)

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHS) at the University of Alabama in Huntsville seeks to create a B.A. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS). The purpose of the proposed IDS degree program is to prepare students to utilize their creativity, innovation, and critical thinking skills in the service of complex problem solving related to issues of current national and international significance. Cross-disciplinary thinking about social problems is the core of the program. Rather than a catchall degree or a degree for returning or nontraditional

students, a B.A. in IDS provides training and experience in complex problem-solving using tools from different disciplines designed for traditional college students with diverse interests and/or career goals that do not align with existing disciplinary programs. The program's core curriculum, thematic tracks, and electives provide students with depth of knowledge, practical skills, and critical thinking in a way that addresses the major problems of the modern world. This skills-focused rather than subject-focused education provides both flexibility and structure for students as well as a cohesive intellectual experience rather than a random assemblage of classes.

The IDS B.A. is 36 credit hours and part of a standard 120 credit hour degree. IDS majors will complete 15 credit hours of core curriculum (including research, writing, and public speaking) and 21 credit hours of electives in either an established track called Science/Technology and Human Context, through an Interdisciplinary Track (a combination of two minors), or an Individually Designed Track with faculty and advisor support. The program will draw on all established departments in the college as well as existing interdisciplinary programs. Current faculty in CAHS offer courses that will meet both core and elective requirements.

The proposed program will target traditional undergraduate students. The curriculum will be offered in a variety of formats, including in-person, hybrid, and online, thereby providing flexibility for students. It will also help UAH differentiate itself from competitor schools, for instance, by capitalizing on our strong focus in STEM education, pairing it with critical thinking skills established in the humanities and social sciences, and building connections with Huntsville-area businesses.

The new program is supported by CAHS leadership, faculty, staff, and students. A quick survey of CAHS students indicated high levels of interest in interdisciplinary study and enthusiasm for the establishing of an IDS degree program. The IDS program is intended to meet market demands for graduates with prowess in reading, writing, communication, and critical thinking skills, as well as support recruitment and retention efforts at the university.

5. Steps taken to determine if other UA System institutions might be interested in collaborating in the program.

I researched already existing interdisciplinary programs within the UA system and found that none matched our proposed program in terms of content, structure, and intent. As a result, at this stage, it does not seem realistic to pursue collaboration with other UA campuses.

6. Summary of other campus comments, internal to the UA System or external (if any), regarding your plans for developing this program. Please include substantive feedback from the pre-proposal process.

The Dean of College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHS) at UAH announced the creation a new position for a Director of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) in spring 2023 with the goal of building an academic major in IDS. In the process of applying for the position, I wrote a cover letter describing my vision for the program and my credentials for creating it. My application materials were vetted by a faculty committee, composed of faculty from English, History, Sociology, and Professional Studies, and I was interviewed by this committee. I then

gave a public presentation to CAHS faculty and staff, who had the opportunity to ask questions. Subsequently, I interviewed with the Dean.

Since being appointed to the Director position, I have consulted with various stakeholder groups about my ideas for the IDS major and have solicited feedback. I created a Program Advisory Committee with representatives from already existing interdisciplinary minors and Professional Studies (a major), who have provided input and feedback on the shaping of the proposal. I have also spoken with department chairs about ways that their curriculum could support an IDS degree. Finally, I have surveyed students about their level of interest in interdisciplinary programs and found a lot of enthusiasm for interdisciplinary studies in general, and an IDS degree in particular.

I have also consulted with faculty at other institutions in similar director positions about their experiences and have solicited general advice for creating a degree program. In particular I spoke with faculty at Tennessee State University and Indiana State University South Bend.

Finally, I have extensively consulted the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies website for information on core concepts, best practices, sample syllabi, and student learning outcomes.

The intention to create an Interdisciplinary Studies degree is documented in the UAH Three-Year Academic Program Planning Report and coincides with many of the priorities and goals of the 2035 Strategic Plan.

7. Describe the process that will be used by your institution for routine internal and/or external program review.

Once the program is operational, the Program Advisory Committee, or PAC, and I will periodically review the curriculum in line with student feedback on experiences to ensure it meets student needs and provides a timely pathway to degree completion. We will adapt the curriculum, including core and elective requirements, as necessary. After the program is operational for a few years, I will solicit formal feedback from students, faculty, and staff, including college advising staff, on strengths and weaknesses of the program to ensure that the program is providing the best possible academic experience for students.

Once the program is firmly established, I intend to conduct a self-study, akin to what academic departments in our college complete every ten years, for which I would solicit an external reviewer.

8. Describe the process that will be used in assessing program outcomes (to include student learning outcomes).

In accordance with SACSCOC guidelines, annual program evaluation will be based on assessing the following Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) with the criteria listed:

SLO 1: Student will identify different disciplinary approaches to problem solving

Assessment 1: Rubric criteria in Interdisciplinary Research class

Assessment 2: Cover letter for capstone project that explains different approaches used and how they represent interdisciplinary methodology

SLO 2: Communicate clearly through speaking

Assessment 1: Based on public speaking class, students placed in 1 of 3 categories in terms of SLO achievement: excellent, satisfactory, and unsatisfactory

Assessment 2: Rubric for capstone presentation on quality and substance

SLO 3: Communicate clearly in writing

Assessment 1: Based on academic writing class, students placed in 1 of 3 categories in terms of SLO achievement: excellent, satisfactory, and unsatisfactory

Assessment 2: Rubric for capstone project on writing style and substance

SLO 4: Student will display critical thinking skills.

Assessment 1: Based on a writing assignment in Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies on critical thinking skills, students placed in 1 of 3 categories in terms of SLO achievement: excellent, satisfactory, and unsatisfactory

Assessment 2: Rubric for capstone project on application of critical thinking skills

SLO 5: Student will demonstrate the ability to conduct interdisciplinary research (scholarly, experiential, or creative)

Assessment 1: Capstone project meets interdisciplinary requirements (use of at least three disciplinary approaches or methodologies)

Assessment 2: Rubric for capstone project, students placed in 1 of 3 categories in terms of SLO achievement: excellent, satisfactory, and unsatisfactory

9. Other pertinent information, if any.

The development of this program is supported by the CAHS leadership/Dean's office, the faculty, and students currently completing interdisciplinary minors.

10. Please provide your contact information.

Contact person: Dr. Nicole Pacino

Telephone: 256.824.2568

Email: nicole.pacino@uah.edu



Board Rule 502
Notice of Pending Proposal (NPP) for a New Program of Instruction
(To be completed by the Provost's Office)

1. Institution

(Please select more than one institution for cooperative, joint, and shared degree programs.)

- UAH

Date of NPP Submission (mm/dd/yyyy):

04/08/2024

Contact Information

<i>Institutional Contact Person:</i>	Dr. David Puleo, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
<i>Telephone:</i>	(256) 824-6337
<i>Email:</i>	dap0045@uah.edu / adamsd1@uah.edu

Program Identification

<i>Program Name:</i>	Interdisciplinary Studies
<i>Degree Nomenclature:</i>	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)/Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

5. CIP Code

<i>2-digit CIP Code:</i>	30 MULTI/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
<i>4-digit CIP Code:</i>	30 MULTI/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES ~ 30.00 Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, General
<i>6-digit CIP Code:</i>	30 MULTI/INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES ~ 30.00 Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, General ~ 30.0000 Multi-/Interdisciplinary Studies, General

Program Mode of Delivery

Provide the planned delivery format(s) (i.e., in-person, online, hybrid) of the program along with the planned location(s) at which the program will be delivered (i.e., on-campus and/or at specific off-campus instructional site(s)). Please also note whether any program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

- In-person
- Online
- Hybrid
- On-campus

7. Select a meeting for Board consideration:

- June 6-7, 2024

8. Is the proposed academic degree program currently listed on your campus Three-Year Academic Program Planning Report that is annually submitted to the Board of Trustees?

- Yes

9. Provide a brief description of the program.

Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) provides a curriculum that enables students to speak to issues of current national and international significance—including, but not limited to demographic changes, political challenges, and social inequality—from a variety of perspectives. Cross-disciplinary thinking about social problems is the core of the program. Rather than a catchall degree or a degree for returning or nontraditional students, a B.A. or B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies provides training and experience in complex problem-solving using tools from different disciplines designed for traditional college students with diverse interests and/or career goals that do not align with existing disciplinary programs. The program's core curriculum, thematic tracks, and electives provide students with depth of knowledge, practical skills, and critical thinking in a way that addresses the major problems of the modern world. This skills-focused rather than subject-focused education provides both flexibility and structure for students as well as a cohesive intellectual experience rather than a random assemblage of classes.

The program's main objectives are to:

1. Enable student curiosity and intellectual exploration.
2. Empower students to design a course of study that fits their interests and needs.
3. Develop practical skills that are desirable to employers.
4. Provide flexibility but also intellectual cohesion/structure.

The B.A. or B.S. is 30 credit hours and part of a standard 120 credit hour degree and consists of the following:

Core classes provide structure to the program and promote skills that are valuable regardless of career path. The IDS core curriculum consists of:

1. An introductory class that provides students with core principles of interdisciplinary study and introduce students to CAHS departments and programs (3 credit hours)
2. Public Speaking (CM 113) (3 credit hours)
3. College Writing (EH 101, 102, or 103) (3 credit hours)
4. Research and Methodology (3 credit hours)
 - a. This requirement can be fulfilled by several different course options, including Interdisciplinary Research Methods and Applications (existing PRO 498) or a discipline-specific methodology class, for instance in psychology, sociology, history, etc.
5. A capstone where students complete either a research/creative project or a professional experience (internship, service-learning opportunity) (3 credit hours)

The core curriculum is 15 credit hours.

Additional credit hours will consist of electives connected with one of the proposed tracks, which allow students to combine courses from several departments in creative ways, or electives that the student proposes in order to create their own thematic concentration (with administrative approval).

Proposed tracks include:

1. Public Engagement:
 - a. 15 hours of electives focused on writing, speaking, languages, data analysis, digital curation, or design, fulfilled by classes in Art/design, Communications, English, History, Sociology, Theater and World Languages and Cultures
2. Science, Technology, and Society:
 - a. 15 hours of electives focused on science/technology and its social, cultural, and political impacts, fulfilled by classes in Communications, English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology

b. Classes from the Colleges of Science or Engineering can also fulfill some of these requirements

3. Area Studies:

a. 15 hours of electives focused on language, history, and culture of a world region, fulfilled by classes from Global Studies, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and World Languages and Cultures

b. Study abroad will be encouraged

c. The goal is to resemble an International Relations degree

4. Design your own:

a. 15 hours of electives fulfilled by classes of the student's choosing

b. This track would be reserved for exceptional students that have specific objectives for their education that are not met by traditional majors/minors or existing tracks. Students submit a proposal in which they identify a unifying theme, relevant courses, and a faculty advisor (with their consent) to be approved by a faculty committee.

10. Relationship of program to other programs within the institution.

10.1. How will the program support or be supported by other programs within the institution?

The B.A. or B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) will support already existing interdisciplinary minor programs in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHS) by supplying a core framework of interdisciplinary classes from which one can build on in pursuit of a Global Studies or User Experience minor, for example. For instance, already existing interdisciplinary minors could become majors with additional coursework under the IDS framework. As is the nature of Interdisciplinary Studies broadly, numerous programs will support an IDS major. Courses in English (college writing) and Communication Arts (public speaking) will be part of the core curriculum. Existing Professional Studies classes in interdisciplinary thinking and research will also support the program's core curriculum. Electives will be pulled from a variety of CAHS major programs, and in the case of the B.S., College of Science and College of Engineering classes may be counted.

10.2. Will this program replace any existing program(s) or specialization(s), option(s) or concentration(s) within existing programs?

- No

11. If this program is similar or duplicative of any other programs in the system or the state, please give your rationale for program duplication.

The program does not duplicate already existing programs in the UA system or the state of Alabama.

UA does offer a B.A. and B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies, which are part of the New College and are thereby geared towards either individualized courses of study through "self-directed studies and out of class learning experiences," (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/new-college/>) or for returning or nontraditional students through its LifeTrack program. Instead, we are proposing an IDS major for traditional college-age students with a curriculum that provides clear structure as well as individual flexibility.

UAB has a series of interdisciplinary majors and minors, including General Studies and International Studies. While the graduate school offers an M.A. and M.S. in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies, it offers no undergraduate IDS degree.

UNA has the closest equivalent program in the sense that they offer both a B.A. and B.S. and serve both traditional and nontraditional students, but their core areas of focus are different from our proposal. For instance, their core curriculum is limited to an introductory class, a research class, and a capstone, without the emphasis on skill building in speaking, writing, and methodology we are proposing. Additionally, their program tracks are broad, whereas ours are tailored towards specific skill sets that will provide students with a degree with a recognizable or marketable title. For example, we propose a STEM-focused track to create connections between UAH colleges but also between CAHS and Huntsville's tech and STEM-focused economy.

12. Do you plan to explore possible program collaboration with other institutions? Please explain.

Since UA and UAB do not have existing interdisciplinary major programs akin to what we are proposing, collaboration does not seem viable at this time.

13. Please describe the need and/or level of student demand for this program.

A quick survey of over 60 students, mostly but not exclusively CAHS students, demonstrated a high level of interest in interdisciplinary programs, with 87.5% of respondents selecting 3 or higher on a 1-5 scale (with 1 being little interest and 5 being a lot of interest). Half of respondents selected 3 or higher in relation to a question about their likelihood of pursuing an interdisciplinary major program if one existed. Additionally, respondents indicated that they thought interdisciplinary studies would add value to UAH, with 87.5% of respondents selecting a 4 or 5 on a 1-5 scale (with 1 being little value and 5 being a lot of value). When asked to supply comments, respondents added:

- "This is so exciting!! I hope it comes about sooner than later."
- "I think interdisciplinary studies would benefit the community in a variety of ways, such as creating more well rounded citizens by challenging students to apply their knowledge across multiple disciplines. I would love to see UAH offer this."
- "I think an Interdisciplinary Studies major would bring much needed variation/customization to the already available CAHS majors."

Several respondents also supplied ideas for how they would integrate an IDS program with their Engineering or Science degrees.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

Resolution

**Granting Approval of and Permission to Submit to the
Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) a Proposal for a
Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies
(CIP Code 30.0000)**

WHEREAS, the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at The University of Alabama in Huntsville proposes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies; and

WHEREAS, the degree program will offer students the flexibility to explore issues not typically covered in traditional single-discipline degrees and will allow options for students to tailor curriculum to their individual needs and career goals; and

WHEREAS, the core curriculum, thematic tracks, and electives of the Interdisciplinary Studies degree program will provide students with problem-solving tools, practical experience, and critical thinking skills to address complex and evolving issues of the modern world; and

WHEREAS, the academic content of the Interdisciplinary Studies degree will draw from existing courses offered by the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and related courses offered in other colleges when appropriate under a customized plan of study; and

WHEREAS, students in the program will gain experience and instruction in public speaking, writing, research methods, and critical reading, all of which are in-demand skills across a variety of industries and are desirable to potential employers; and

WHEREAS, the Interdisciplinary Studies degree program will require no external accreditation and no additional funding or faculty to implement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama that the Board does hereby support and approve the Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (CIP code 30.0000) at The University of Alabama in Huntsville and grants permission to submit this Proposal to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

September 17, 2024

Mr. Sid J. Trant
Interim Chancellor
The University of Alabama System
Sid McDonald Hall
500 University Blvd. East
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Dear Chancellor Trant:

Attached is a proposal, resolution, and supporting documentation for the creation of a new Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

I ask that the program proposal be reviewed and placed on the agenda for the November 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting.

Sincerely,




Charles L. Karr
President

Attachments

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 16, 2024

To: Charles L. Karr, President

From: David Puleo, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  David Puleo
2024.09.17
14:03:04 -05'00'

Subject: Resolution Proposing New Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies

Attached is a resolution along with a complete proposal package for the creation of a new Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. The new degree program will be offered under the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at UAH.

This resolution and supporting documents are submitted for your review, approval, and forwarding to the Board of Trustees for the next meeting. If you have any questions or need more information, please let me know.

Attachments