

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (BSIS)

The Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (BSIS) is intended to allow students maximum flexibility to custom-design a program of study to meet his/her specific personal and career goals. BSIS is not intended for the entering freshman or entering transfer student. The program of study must assure both depth and breadth of study. Therefore, the program requires that students take at least 36 upper-division hours (3000+) in two or three areas they have chosen for emphasis. That is, students may select a minimum of 12 hours in each of three areas of study or select 18 hours in two areas of study. These areas must be in at least two different colleges. The last 32 hours of coursework in the degree program must be taken in residence at Mississippi State University. To insure coherence in the BSIS program, the student must write a rationale for their course of study that explains the program's direct relationship to the student's personal and career goals. **Students must have an MSU and overall 2.0 GPA for entry into the program.**

Procedure

Prior to the senior year, a student desiring enrollment in the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies program should meet with the academic advisor in 224 Allen to evaluate the student's goals and requirements and begin the steps for entry into the BSIS program. Steps to Apply for BSIS Program:

1. Meet with the advisor in 224 Allen to begin the process.
2. Solicit the sponsorship of a faculty member in each area of study (from at least two different colleges). Together the student and faculty sponsor should formulate the individualized course of study for each area of study that best fits the student's personal and career goals. Each sponsor is to sign on page one under the area of study and on page two by the appropriate area of study.
3. Write a letter to the Committee requesting admittance to the BSIS program. The letter should be one-page in length, be well written in good business format, and state the student's career objectives and how the areas of study will help achieve those objectives. The letter is to include the current mailing address and signature of student.
4. Submit the letter and the program of study with signatures to the advisor in 224 Allen by the deadline listed below. Applications submitted after the deadline cannot be considered until the next semester.

After the Committee meets, a letter will be mailed to the applicant with the decision of the committee. Once a student is accepted into the program, a change of major will be processed. A student must maintain an overall 2.0 GPA in each concentration area with no more than one grade of "D" in each area of study. Also, an overall and MSU GPA of 2.0 or greater must be maintained for graduation.

All BSIS students admitted Fall 2014 and after, will be required to take IDS 4111, Professional Seminar. This is a one hour class for BSIS students only.

The BSIS committee will meet once during the fall, spring and summer semesters. Students must submit a completed application by these dates: **September 1, February 1, and May 1**. Applications submitted after these dates will be considered the next semester.

Once a student is accepted into the BSIS program, the Program of Study submitted to the Committee becomes the requirements for graduation. Any changes in the Program of Study must be submitted in writing and are subject to approval.

BSIS Limitations: Students may not receive minors in the BSIS program. After a BSIS degree is awarded, a student may not return to school and receive a second bachelor's degree in an area of study used in BSIS. A student may not receive a BSIS degree if he/she already has a bachelor's degree.

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The BSIS program is not a set program, but is individualized for each student.

The program for a degree is to be filed with the Academic Advisor in 224 Allen and approved by the BSIS Committee when the student is ready, but **prior** to the senior year (not the semester of graduation.)

University core	36 hours
BSIS Core Requirements	9 hours
Interdisciplinary Studies Core Electives	12 hours
Areas of study	36 hours
3 – twelve hour areas (3 x 12) or	
2 – eighteen hour areas (2 x 18)	
Electives	<u>29 hours</u>
TOTAL HOURS	122 hours