

## **Central State University**

### **Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies Program**

#### **Overview of the Degree**

The B. A. in Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies prepares students for a wide range of careers by fostering the adaptability, critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills necessary for personal and professional success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The curriculum provides unique opportunities for students to explore more than one discipline and develop the abilities, skills, and interests that lead to fulfilling careers and that employers are consistently seeking in college graduates. This approach draws on the strengths of multiple fields, making students more well-rounded critical thinkers well suited to adapt to our rapidly changing world.

The B.A. in Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies is a rigorous humanities-based degree program. It offers a liberal-arts style degree plan that allows students to accomplish various goals, including incorporating differing fields of interest, continuing education from a 2-year degree program, transferring with diverse course credits, or changing majors. This degree could be especially appealing and beneficial for students interested in combining the humanities with other fields such as medicine, business, physics, science, or technology.

#### **Popular Careers**

The B.A. in Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies provides a flexible degree specifically oriented to the student's career goals. Popular career pathways include management and marketing, healthcare fields, and careers involving the creation of cutting-edge technology.

Businesses need the skills that humanities courses excel at developing. Surveys consistently show that the top attribute employers look for in job candidates is written communication skills. 80% of employers want to see proof of these skills before they hire someone. The top ten attributes that come after that include problem solving, ability to work in a team, analytical skills, verbal communication skills, leadership, detail-oriented, and flexibility/adaptability, attributes that our interdisciplinary studies curriculum is designed to foster. An interdisciplinary studies course plan that includes the rigorous study of business, humanities, and social sciences positions graduates to become future corporate leaders.

Evidence shows that humanities majors do well in business: 15% of humanities graduates go on to management positions, 14% go into office and administrative positions, 13% are in sales, and another 10% are in business and finance. Among managers in the marketing, advertising, and PR industries, those who studied the liberal arts earn an average of \$20,000 a year more than those who majored in advertising and PR. The B.A. in Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies allows students to customize their studies in a way that can give them an edge over other job candidates.

Tech giants such as Apple, Microsoft, Facebook, and Google consistently express a need for college graduates to have a well-rounded education that includes a strong background in the humanities. A 2015 *Forbes* article offers an example: a marketing manager at Facebook, Bess Yount earned a Stanford bachelor's degree in communication and a master's in sociology. "I've always had a greater love for words than numbers," Yount says. That hasn't been a problem. When she joined Facebook in 2010, the social media company was evolving rapidly beyond its engineer-centric beginnings. Instead of envisioning a day when ads could be booked online without ever talking to a human being, Facebook's leaders began tapping into the benefits of a personal touch" (from "That 'Useless' Liberal Arts Degree has Become Tech's Hottest Ticket").

Data from places such as Google show how critical an interdisciplinary education based in the humanities is for anyone who wants to go into the tech industry. In 2013, Google analyzed its own hiring, firing, and promotions data going back to 1998. Of the eight most important qualities of Google's top employees, STEM expertise comes in last. The seven traits above it are what are often referred to as soft skills: being a good coach, communicating and listening well, possessing insights into others (including others different values and points of view), having empathy toward and being supportive of one's colleagues, being a good critical thinker and problem solver, and being able to make connections across complex ideas. These results led Google to change its hiring practices to include humanities majors and artists.

Medical school administrators have been saying for decades that they want applicants with liberal arts and humanities backgrounds, that they greatly value what such applicants bring to the study of medicine, and that the medical doctors they graduate need experience with the humanities. Information on the application requirements for medical schools is available in this course catalog in the College of Engineering, Science, Technology, and Agriculture's section: "Preparation for Healthcare Professions." The high value that medical schools place on applicants with a broad undergraduate education based in the humanities shows strongly in whom those schools accept into their programs. A recent report by the American Association of Medical Colleges identifies humanities majors as having the highest acceptance rate into medical schools. Looking at these acceptance rates, more humanities majors are accepted than majors in biological sciences, math and statistics, physical sciences, and specialized health sciences. The data show that humanities majors have been the most likely to make it into medical school.

Additionally, a 2017 survey of more than 700 medical students found that the higher the students' exposure to the humanities, the higher the students scored on measures of empathy, wisdom, tolerance of ambiguity, resourcefulness, and emotional intelligence, and the lower they scored in signs of burnout. Interdisciplinary studies majors gain the necessary experience that can make them stronger applicants for medical school and better medical doctors.

### **Degree Requirements**

Central State University's B.A. in Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies requires a foundational core in courses that build students' critical reading, writing, and thinking skills. The student learning outcomes for the degree consist of:

- Synthesize critical thinking skills in investigating and analyzing problems across multiple disciplines.
- Integrate critical reading skills in analyzing various texts, contexts, genres, and media types within multiple disciplines.
- Apply effective critical composition skills throughout textual writing and multimodal composition in multiple genres and disciplines.
- Articulate the ways social, political, historical, and cultural forces shape values and perspectives.
- Apply an interdisciplinary perspective to issues in academia, society, and the workplace.

In addition to the General Education program, all students take the following major requirements:

- Humanities Core (15 credits): All students complete the core course requirements.
  - IDS 2100. Introduction to Studies in the Humanities
  - ENG 2200. Introduction to Literary Studies
  - PHI 2204. Critical Thinking

- HIS 2202. History in the US since 1877
- BUS 1500. Computer Applications for Business
- Field Concentration (9 credits): Students complete at least 9 credits in their chosen field discipline within the Humanities.
  - Complete three courses in any one discipline from COM, ENG, HIS, or PHI at the 3000-level or above
- Theoretical Course in the Humanities Concentration (3 credits)
  - Complete appropriate course from:
    - COM 3306. Communication Research Methods
    - ENG 3100. Literary Criticism
    - HIS 2201. Research Methods in History
    - PHI 3500. Disciplines in Philosophy
- Humanities Electives (9 credits): students complete either additional courses in their field concentration or interdisciplinary courses within the Humanities. At least 1 must be outside concentration area.
  - Complete 3 courses with a COM, ENG, HIS, PHI, or FLA at the 2000 level or above.
- Senior Capstone (3 credits)
  - IDS 4500. Senior Capstone in Humanities
- Additional requirements:
  - Foreign language requirement or equivalent proficiency (8 credits)
  - Additional electives in the Humanities, as required for a B.A. degree (6 credits)

The degree offers a wide range of flexibility, and students are active designers in their educational program. Together with their faculty advisor, students build an individualized multi-disciplinary course of study and realize their educational vision. This additional course of study completes the 120 credit hours required for graduation. The program may integrate a minor, incorporate transfer credit, and accommodate an individualized course of study based on career goals.

### **Student Responsibility**

Students in the program are required to meet regularly with their advisor. Though expected to seek academic advisement and guidance, students are ultimately responsible for complying with all university, college, and department regulations, and for satisfying all degree requirements.

**SUGGESTED CURRICULUM FOR THE DEGREE, BACHELOR OF ARTS  
MAJOR IN HUMANITIES (INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES)**

The curriculum below is to be used in consultation with an academic advisor. The student must be familiar with the University requirements, the General Education Requirements and any Special Requirements for the above degree.

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
COURSE #	TITLE	CREDIT HRS	COURSE#	TITLE	CREDIT HRS
<b>FRESHMAN</b>			<b>FRESHMAN</b>		
ENG 1100	Intro to Writing and Reading (or)	4-5	ENG 1102	Writing and Research the Essay	4
ENG 1101	Introduction to Writing for College		IDS 2100	Intro to Studies in the Humanities	3
USS 1000	Undergraduate Success Seminar	2	BUS 1500	Computer Applications for Business	3
ENG2200	Introduction to Literary Studies	3	ELECTIVE	From General Education List B	3
MTH 1550 or 1750	Modern Applications of Math or College Algebra	3	ELECTIVE	From General Education List C	3
HIS 1110/1121/22	Intro to Africans in the U.S. (or) Global History I (or) II	3			
		<b>15- 16</b>			<b>16</b>
<b>SOPHOMORE</b>			<b>SOPHOMORE</b>		
PHI 2240	Critical Thinking	3	HIS 2202 1	History of US Since 1877	3
FLA 1xxx	Foreign Language I	4	FLA 1xxx	Foreign Language II	4
ELECTIVE	Humanities Elective from List B	3	ELECTIVE	Humanities Elective for IDS concentration or elective	3
ELECTIVE	From General Education List C	3	ELECTIVE	From General Education List D University Elective or Elective for Minor	3
ELECTIVE	HHP Activity from List A	1	ELECTIVE		3
		<b>14</b>			<b>16</b>
<b>JUNIOR</b>			<b>JUNIOR</b>		
ELECTIVE	Theoretical Elective (COM 3306/ENG 3100/ HIS 2100/ PHI 3500)	3	ELECTIVE	Humanities Elective from List B Humanities Elective for IDS concentration or elective	3
ELECTIVE	General Education Elective from List D	3	ELECTIVE	University Electives or Electives for Minor	6
ELECTIVE	Humanities Elective for IDS concentration or elective	6	ELECTIVE		9
ELECTIVE	University Electives or Electives for Minor	3			
		<b>15</b>			<b>15</b>
<b>SENIOR</b>			<b>SENIOR</b>		
ELECTIVE	Humanities Elective for IDS concentration or elective	6	IDS 4500	Senior Capstone in Humanities University Electives or Electives for Minor	3
ELECTIVE	University Electives or Electives for Minor	9	ELECTIVE		10
		<b>15</b>			<b>15</b>