

Interdisciplinary Major

MAJOR

An interdisciplinary major enables a student to construct from two or more disciplines a course of study not available through one department. The student works out her program with two advisors who must be in different departments. For more information, contact the Associate Provost for Student Academic Success.

The interdisciplinary major consists of at least eight courses, including a course in research methods from one of the disciplines (or an equivalent introduction to sources and a coordinating tutorial chosen in consultation with the student's two advisors) and one 300-level independent study that addresses the interdisciplinary major field of study. The major in addition requires one internship related to the area of interest. The following restrictions will apply in all cases: 1) no more than two 100-level courses will count toward the major; 2) no more than two independent studies may count toward the major; and 3) at least four 300-level courses must be included in the major.

By the end of the senior year, all interdisciplinary majors will submit a capstone portfolio to the chair of the program for evaluation. The capstone portfolio must contain the following:

- 1) a cover page with the student's name, class year, major title, description of the major, and names of advisors
- 2) a description of career goals and plans
- 3) a résumé and cover letter
- 4) a list of the courses taken for the major, including each course number, title, and description of how the course supports the interdisciplinary major
- 5) a graded research paper from the 300-level independent study (or other 300-level course in the major)
- 6) a description of the internship required for the major
- 7) the evaluation form from the supervisor of the required internship related to the major program of study
- 8) the academic work required by the faculty sponsor of the internship
- 9) a personal essay evaluating the internship related to the major program of study with respect to the student's future career or education goals

Graduating senior majors will meet with the chair of the interdisciplinary program to review their portfolios in the last full week of classes prior to graduation.

Possible subjects for interdisciplinary majors include a period, an idea, or a set of problems: work on the Renaissance in English, history, art, and music; work on human freedom in philosophy, psychology, sociology, and political science. With an interdisciplinary major, the possibilities are limited only by the student's imagination.

Hollins students have worked on such interdisciplinary majors as the following sample programs:

MEDIA PRODUCTION AND DESIGN

An exploration of the art of graphic design incorporating the skills of communication and uses of media in culture, photography, and digital manipulation.

Courses completed in fulfillment of the interdisciplinary major requirements:

- COMM 231: Writing for the Print Media
- COMM 235L: Media in Britain
- ART R261: Graphic Design Reproduction (taken at Roanoke College through reciprocal agreement)
- ART 306: Digital Photography
- ART 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – Mixed Media Drawing
- COMM 361: Media Law and Policy
- COMM 390: I.S. – Research Methods
- COMM 542: New Media and Network Society

HISPANIC STUDIES

A course of study to profoundly analyze the cultures, writing, and politics of Spain and Latin America.

Courses completed in fulfillment of the interdisciplinary major requirements:

- POLS 103: Modern Comparative Politics
- COMM 270: Intercultural Communication
- SPAN 238: Latin-American Culture and Civilization
- POLS 304: Geopolitics
- POLS 337: Seminar in U.S. Foreign Policy
- SPAN 348: Twentieth-Century Latin-American Literature
- SPAN 375: Advanced Spanish Grammar
- SPAN 390: I.S. – Hispanic Studies