Interdisciplinary Programs

The university offers a number of interdisciplinary programs and courses. These programs combine course offerings from several departments so the subject is examined from a multidisciplinary approach. While most persons who earn certificates do so in the process of completing their undergraduate degree, non-degree seeking students may complete a certificate. Below are links to the descriptions of these interdisciplinary offerings:

**Degrees**
- Biochemistry and Biotechnology BS [link]
- Liberal Studies BLS [link]
- Interdisciplinary Studies BIS [link]

**Certificates**
- Child Advocacy Studies Undergraduate Certificate [link]
- Cybersecurity Undergraduate Certificate [link]
- Entrepreneurship Undergraduate Certificate [link]
- Gender Studies Undergraduate Certificate [link]

**Minors**
- American Studies Minor [link]
- Child Advocacy Studies Minor [link]
- Latina/Latino Studies Minor [link]
- Urban Studies Minor [link]
- Environmental Studies Minor [link]

**Courses**

**INTDSC 1000 Special Topics: 3 semester hours**
Topics may vary from semester to semester, however, they will all focus in the cultural heritage of Great Britain with material taken from art, theater, literature, and selected topics in philosophy.

**INTDSC 1003 University Studies: 1 semester hour**
This course, required of all new freshmen in the College of Arts and Sciences, is designed to assist students in making the transition to the university experience and to UMSL by giving students the knowledge and tools needed to succeed as a scholar. The course will also familiarize students with the relationship between their education and their career and personal goals, and will assist in developing positive connections with faculty, staff, and peers at UMSL. Students will learn about faculty expectations, support services, and student life, as well as academic disciplines. The course counts toward the 120 credit hours needed for graduation.

**INTDSC 1004 SUCCEED Special Topics: 1-3 semester hours**
Prerequisites: By consent of SUCCEED director. This course is designed to assist students in the SUCCEED program make the transition to the university experience and to UMSL. This course gives students in SUCCEED the opportunity to be co-enrolled in courses that meet their interests and abilities through a mutual agreement between SUCCEED staff and UMSL course instructors regarding enrollment and student expectations.

**INTDSC 1010 Information Research and Student Success: 1 semester hour**
Students will use online library resources to learn search techniques for different types of information. Course content will be delivered through interactive, online tutorials and short, informative videos. Students will develop an understanding of academic research that will set a foundation for critical thinking skills. The course will help students in practical ways, such as for researching term papers, but also in more abstract ways, such as exposing them to the world of scholarship and academic knowledge.

**INTDSC 1011 Introduction to Disability Studies: 3 semester hours**
This course introduces the theory and scholarship of the interdisciplinary field of Disability Studies. Disability will be addressed as a matter of identity, culture, language, writing, power, education, politics, literature, art, and more.

**INTDSC 1012 History of Disability: 3 semester hours**
This course explores the history of disability from various perspectives, moving from antiquity to present day. Perspectives will include: the individual, society at large, the family, sexuality and disability, educational systems, and legal and ethical issues. Students will explore how these perspectives can drive public policy and service delivery systems. Students will gain knowledge and a foundational understanding of current legislation, Independent Living Philosophy, advocacy, empowerment, and self-empowerment that will enable them to create an organized and efficient independent living plan.

**INTDSC 1030 Language and Communicative Arts Across the Disciplines: 3 semester hours**
This course is designed to advance the academic skills of university-level students. This course consists of listening to academic lectures across the disciplines; reading texts and articles to supplement lectures; writing summaries, essays and responses to exam questions; understanding and editing grammar and sentence structure; phonetics and word stress patterns; presentation skills; and advancing skills in note-taking, critical thinking, and comprehension of advanced college-level vocabulary of various fields of study.

**INTDSC 1220 Special Topics in Gerontology: 3 semester hours**
Same as GERON 2220. Selected topics dealing with various aspects of gerontology. The specific content of this course will vary from semester to semester. The course may be repeated with permission from the Gerontology Director.
**INTDSC 1700 Major and Career Exploration: 1 semester hour**
This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn and explore various majors and career paths within a structured setting. Both informative and interactive, the course will provide students with the opportunity to learn broadly about college majors and their relationship to the ‘world of work,’ while also researching specifically the options they are interested in pursuing. The course seeks to assist students with answering two questions, “What do I want to study?” and “How do I want to make a life for myself (and family)?” Components of the course will also educate students about the current and projected employment market, and how to further research pertinent career information.

**INTDSC 1999 Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present: 3 semester hours**
Same as HIST 1999. An introduction to the humanities, social science, and science disciplines through a sweeping overview of natural and human history from the Big Bang to the present. Course will include lectures from faculty in various Arts and Sciences units, films, and group discussions.

**INTDSC 1999A Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present: 6 semester hours**
Same as HIST 1999A. An introduction to the humanities, social science, and science disciplines through a sweeping overview of natural and human history from the Big Bang to the present. Course will include lectures from faculty in various Arts and Sciences units, films, field trips, and group discussions.

**INTDSC 2003 Careers in Health and Medicine: 1 semester hour**
Same as ANTHRO 2003, GERON 2003, SOC 2003. In this course, students will learn about occupations in such fields as medicine, the allied health professions, health non-profit organizations, and global healthcare delivery. Students will understand the education and skills necessary for various careers and for application to medical, professional, and graduate schools, and will become familiar with majors, certificates and minors that are available at UMSL. They will learn about employment opportunities in the healthcare industry in the St. Louis metropolitan area, and will be introduced to members of the local community who give guest lectures. Students will gain practical experience by shadowing a healthcare professional in their job.

**INTDSC 3010 Peer Mentoring: 1-3 semester hours**
Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. The objective of this interdisciplinary course is to prepare and support undergraduate students working across campus as learning assistants, tutors, peer mentors, student leaders, etc. The course will support the development of general pedagogical knowledge of active learning, leadership and facilitation skills, and effective communication and listening skills, that they will use to facilitate learning in settings where students are working collaboratively, reviewing course content, or receiving supplemental instruction to guide their success. This course may be repeated for up to 6 credit hours.