

About the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Arts

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Arts (BIA) is a unique program for students who wish to study multiple fields in equivalent depth. As an interdisciplinary liberal arts degree, it requires similar but slightly different general requirements as the Bachelor of Arts degree. Instead of a major and minor, the student selects three fields of specialization, each of which meets the minimum requirements of a departmental or interdisciplinary minor. Together, the three fields form a coherent specialization of interest to the student that is unavailable elsewhere in the university as an organized program of study. The student chooses the three fields in consultation with the J.T. and Margaret Talkington College of Visual and Performing Arts (TCVPA) academic advisor and, as necessary, the departmental or program advisors overseeing those areas. Any academic minor may be used as a field of specialization in the BIA, but at least two of the three fields must reside in the TCVPA. Additionally, students can pursue self-designed fields of specialization provided they obtain approval from the academic areas housing the included courses.

Each field consists of a minimum of 18 hours in the chosen discipline, for a total of 54 hours minimum across the three specializations. Through these self-selected fields, which combine to form an integrated specialization and liberal arts foundation, the BIA degree can prepare a student to pursue an intellectual and/or artistic interest, a career goal, or further study at the graduate or professional level. The degree may be of particular interest to students with interests in several arts areas who are preparing for new career opportunities integrating technology with art, producing work that crosses boundaries between fine art and design, or exploring how the arts impact social behavior. Outside the TCVPA, BIA majors can select from over one hundred minors in a wide diversity of fields, including psychology, sociology, computer science, anthropology, restaurant and hotel management, communication studies, dramatic writing, or media strategies. Admission is by interview, written justification, and/or audition administered by or submitted to the appropriate TCVPA Associate Dean and faculty, to be completed before matriculation or by the end of the second semester of study.

The degree contains an interdisciplinary core required of all students, consisting of VPA 1302, VPA 2301, and VPA 2310. The first and second fields of specialization are chosen from existing minors in art, music, or theatre and dance.

The third field is selected in close consultation with the college advisor from available minors within or outside the college that support the student's broader interdisciplinary interests or may be self-designed with the assistance and approval of the College and appropriate academic units. The BIA course of study culminates in the one-credit capstone course, VPA 4110, taken concurrently with two credits in an appropriate 4000-level independent study with a faculty mentor. At least 36 credit hours must be in courses within the TCVPA.

Declaration of Major. Students declare the interdisciplinary arts major in the TCVPA just as they do any major. A visit with the academic advisor (806.742.0700 or cvpa.advisors@ttu.edu) is the best place to start, followed by visits to program advisors representing the three intended fields of specialization.

Graduation Requirements. Requirements for the BIA degree in the TCVPA are as follows:

Minimum total of 120 credit hours

Minimum total of 40 junior/senior hours

Interdisciplinary core consisting of VPA 1302, 2301, 2310, and 4110, plus 2 credits of 4000-level independent study

Three fields of specialization to total at least 54 hours, each comprising an existing departmental or interdisciplinary minor of at least 18 hours each; minimum 6 junior/senior hours in each field; courses may be credited in only one field of specialization; at least two of the fields must come from the TCVPA.

Specified general core degree requirements as shown:

English: 6 Semester Hours

Oral Communication: 3 Semester Hours (could be filled by VPA 1302)

United States and Texas Government: 6 Semester Hours

United States History: 6 Semester Hours

Mathematics: 6 Semester Hours

Life and Physical Sciences: 8 Semester Hours

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 Semester Hours

Language, Philosophy, and Culture: 3 Semester Hours (could be filled by VPA 2301)

Creative Arts: satisfied in concentrations

Personal Fitness and Wellness: 0 Semester Hours

Foreign Language: 0-10 Semester Hours. Entering students are expected to have completed four semesters credit of a single foreign language in high school.

Students who do not meet this requirement will be required to complete one year

(or the equivalent) of a single foreign language taken at the college level. For more detailed information, refer to the “Foreign Language Requirement” listing in the Academic Requirements section of this catalog.

Multicultural Requirement: 3 Semester Hours (could be filled by VPA 2301)

Communication Literacy Requirement: Students attending Texas Tech University for the first time in the Fall 2017 term or later will complete a Communication Literacy requirement in their program(s) of study. Texas Tech University’s transition from the Writing Intensive requirement to the Communication Literacy requirement signals the university’s awareness that, in addition to the fundamental role that writing plays in enabling students to explore, develop, focus, and organize a message, other types of communication must also be taught as appropriate for a student’s discipline. Throughout each program of study, then, students must be given ample opportunity to develop their skills in forms of communication central to that program. For information on courses meeting the CL requirement for the Interdisciplinary Arts major, please see an advisor.

Elective Hours necessary to reach a minimum total of 120 hours

Recommended Curriculum

First Year

Fall

IS 1100 - RaiderReady: Freshman Seminar 1 Semester Credit Hours

ENGL 1301 - Essentials of College Rhetoric 3 Semester Credit Hours

Mathematics 3 Semester Credit Hours *

U.S. History 3 Semester Credit Hours *

VPA 2310

Concentration One 3 Semester Credit Hours

Total: 16

Spring

ENGL 1302 - Advanced College Rhetoric 3 Semester Credit Hours

Mathematics 3 Semester Credit Hours

VPA 2301 3 Semester Credit Hours

U.S. History 3 Semester Credit Hours *
Concentration Two 3 Semester Credit Hours

Total: 15

Second Year

Fall

Political Science 3 Semester Credit Hours *
Foreign Language 3 Semester Credit Hours[†]

OR

VPA 1302 3 Semester Credit Hours
Social & Behavioral Sciences 3 Semester Credit Hours *
Concentration One 3 Semester Credit Hours
Life & Physical Sciences 4 Semester Credit Hours *

Total: 16

Spring

Political Science 3 Semester Credit Hours *
Foreign Language 3 Semester Credit Hours[†]

OR

Elective 3 Semester Credit Hours
Multicultural Course or Elective 3 Semester Credit Hours
Concentration Two 3 Semester Credit Hours
Life & Physical Sciences 4 Semester Credit Hours *

Total: 16

Third Year

Fall

Language, Philosophy, and Culture Course or Elective 3 Semester Credit Hours *
Elective 3 Semester Credit Hours

Concentration One 3 Semester Credit Hours
Concentration Two 3 Semester Credit Hours

Concentration Three 3 Semester Credit Hours

Total: 15

Spring

Elective 3 Semester Credit Hours

Concentration Three 3 Semester Credit Hours

Concentration One 3 Semester Credit Hours

Concentration Two 3 Semester Credit Hours

Concentration Three 3 Semester Credit Hours

Total: 15

Fourth Year

Fall

Concentration One 3 Semester Credit Hours

Concentration Two 3 Semester Credit Hours

Concentration Three 3 Semester Credit Hours

Concentration Three 3 Semester Credit Hours

Elective 3 Semester Credit Hours

Total: 15

Spring

Concentration One 3 Semester Credit Hours

Concentration Two 3 Semester Credit Hours

Concentration Three 3 Semester Credit Hours

VPA 4110 plus 4000-level independent study 3 Semester Credit Hours

Total: 12

Total Hours: 120

* Choose from the university's core curriculum.

† Entering students are expected to have taken four semesters credit of a single foreign language in high school. Students who do not meet this requirement will be required to complete one year (or the equivalent) of a single foreign language taken at the college level. For more information, refer to the “**Foreign Language Requirement**” in the Academic Requirements section of the catalog.