

General Requirements for the Interdisciplinary Studies and Natural Sciences Area Major

Interdisciplinary Studies

The School of Arts and Sciences has replaced the area majors in Humanistic Studies and in Social and Behavioral Sciences with a major in Interdisciplinary Studies. The School encourages students to combine two or more of the disciplines in Arts and Sciences to develop a major focused on a particular topic or intellectual theme. Therefore, courses proposed for this interdisciplinary major must have coherence and build toward a rich exploration of a clear set of principles or questions.

Students design their own academic programs with the assistance of a faculty adviser, who must be a full-time faculty member in Arts and Sciences, and in consultation of Associate Dean John Bader, who oversees the major. Students write a proposal that explains the themes or topics they will explore through the major. The proposal must include a list of courses and an explanation of how each course relates to the major's themes. This proposal must be presented no later than the second semester of junior year, and must be approved by the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. Once approved, students may not change the proposed requirements without additional approval.

Major Requirements

- All courses for the major must be taken for a grade. Students must earn a C- or better in all courses. Courses taken S/U or P/F may not count.
- Students must earn at least 45 credits in the completion of the major.
- A minimum of 21 credits must be completed at the 300-level or higher and may not be counted toward another major or minor.

Distribution Requirements

- Students must complete no fewer than 30 credits of courses that carry distribution credit of any kind outside the major.
- Students must complete no fewer than 12 credits of N, Q, or E courses either in the major or as an elective.
- Students must complete no fewer than 12 credits of H courses either in the major or as an elective.
- Students must complete no fewer than 12 credits of S courses either in the major or as an elective.

Natural Sciences

The natural sciences area major offers students an opportunity to fashion a major according to their needs from appropriate upper-level courses in two different areas of natural science. The student may elect to construct a program bridging biology and chemistry, chemistry and physics, or some other combination. The student is free to select the courses to be taken as long as the program forms a sensible, coherent whole.

The area major in natural sciences can be used as preparation for a career in medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science, if the introductory courses chosen by the student include those prescribed for admission to these professional schools. Students selecting the natural sciences area major can also go on to do graduate work in natural science, though they may find that they will have to take some remedial work in graduate school if their undergraduate program does not include the courses that are usually required by a traditional major in a particular subject.

Requirements

The requirements of the natural sciences area major are the following:

Introductory Science Courses

One year of introductory chemistry with laboratory, one year of general physics with laboratory, one year of calculus, and 20 credits of other introductory and/or upper-level science (N) and mathematics courses. Premedical students would normally take one year of organic chemistry with laboratory and one year of biology with laboratory.

Upper-Level Science Courses

Five one-semester courses at the 300-level or higher, totaling at least 15 credits. These courses are to be divided between two different science departments. Courses used to satisfy the introductory science requirement above cannot be used to fulfill this requirement. Three of the courses must be taken in one of the following departments: Biology, Biophysics, Chemistry, Earth and Planetary Sciences, or Physics and Astronomy. Two of the courses may be taken in appropriate areas of engineering, mathematics, mathematical science, or (N)-coded psychology.

Laboratory courses may not count as upper-level science courses but do count for lower-level sci-

ence courses. Further information is available in the Office of Academic Advising.

Humanities and Social Science Courses

A minimum of 30 (H) and (S) credits. These credits must include five courses at or beyond the 300-level, totaling at least 15 credits, to be taken in at most three different departments. Approved courses in Music History and Music Theory taught at the Peabody Institute can be used to fulfill this requirement.

Electives

Elective courses from any area can be used to fulfill the minimum degree requirements of 120 credits.

Foreign Language

Proficiency is required in a modern foreign language equivalent to one year of an elementary college-level course or at least one semester of an intermediate-level course. An SAT Achievement Test score of 450 or above can be presented to fulfill the language requirement.

Writing Requirement

(See page 42.)

Academic Standards

The student must maintain an overall grade point average of 2.0 in their major. The requirement of five 300-level science courses and five 300-level humanities and social science courses must be fulfilled using courses taught during the regular academic year at Hopkins or in the Johns Hopkins University Arts and Sciences Summer Session. They cannot include School of Professional Studies in Business and Education, research, internship, or independent study credits. Satisfactory/unsatisfactory courses (except for the 300-level humanities and social science courses) may not count toward these requirements. (*Checksheets are available in the Office of Academic Advising.*)



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