
Interdisciplinary Majors



Bachelor's Degree with Individual Concentration (BDIC)

Degrees: Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Science

Contact: Prof. José Ornelas, *Director*;
Linda Roney, *Coordinator*
Office: 608 Goodell
Phone: 545-2504

Faculty Supervisors: Alexandrina Deschamps (Women's Studies), Henry Geddes (Communication), Gino Sorcinelli (Accounting), Paula Stamps (Public Health), Nikki Stoia (Music).

The Major

BDIC is a degree-granting program that offers motivated and self-directed students the opportunity to design their own interdisciplinary majors under faculty guidance. The Program allows students to pursue their educational goals in areas not available within an existing departmental curriculum or traditional major on the campus. Each student's program of study (the "concentration") is developed with the advice and approval of a faculty sponsor (chosen by the student) and a BDIC faculty supervisor. Students confer with these faculty members on a regular basis as they progress through and continue to develop their programs.

BDIC concentrations are interdisciplinary, drawing upon at least two departments, and integrating approaches and knowledge from at least two disciplines. In planning their concentrations, students are encouraged not only to select courses from two or more departments or schools within the University, but also to draw upon the resources of the Five College consortium. BDIC majors frequently undertake independent study or field experience learning; study abroad is encouraged where relevant. Each concentration is developed to span four semesters (usually the junior and senior years).

BDIC majors earn either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree. (For the B.S., 60 credits are required in courses from the sciences and mathematics.) The student's transcript records the area of concentration. Because of the individualized nature of each student's program of study, BDIC has almost as many concentrations as it has students in the major. To guide and assist this diverse group,

BDIC has a staff of five faculty supervisors and additional experienced faculty and staff, including many BDIC peer advisers. Each student is assigned to one of five academic clusters within BDIC: Arts and Cultural Studies; Business and Law; Communication; Education and Human Development; and Health, Natural Sciences, Computer Science and Engineering.

Admission to the Program

The BDIC major is a program of at least four semesters, planned and approved in advance. A minimum of 30 degree credits, with an overall grade point average of at least 2.0, is required for admission. Students may initiate the admission process as early as the second semester of their freshman year, if they will have met this minimum by the end of the semester. Incoming transfer students with 30 or more transfer credits may begin the admissions process as soon as they receive formal acceptance from the University. It is strongly recommended that students apply before their junior year. Later application, especially after the first semester of the junior year, may result in the need for additional semesters or summer sessions at the University.

The first step in the application process is to meet with a peer adviser, who will familiarize the student with BDIC and with the Program's requirements, and will discuss academic and career interests. In order to be accepted into the BDIC major, students must enroll in BDIC 396P, a one-credit independent study proposal writing course. During this course, students work with the proposal class instructor and a peer adviser in order to complete a proposal outlining their concentration. Final acceptance into BDIC comes with the completion of BDIC 396P at which time a BDIC faculty supervisor approves each student's proposal.

Major Requirements

1. Completion of BDIC 396P during which a proposal is completed.
2. Completion of at least 12 interrelated upper-division courses (numbered 300 or above) in the area of concentration, not including BDIC 396P or 496C. Each course must be passed with a minimum grade of C. Courses must be drawn from two or more departments each semester, and must be at least three credits each. A maximum of nine practicum credits (earned in field experience and internships) may be applied to the major.
3. A six-page Mid-Program Report halfway through the BDIC program.
4. Completion of BDIC 496C, Junior Year Writing in Interdisciplinary Studies course. This

satisfies the University's Junior Year Writing requirement for BDIC majors. Students who have completed the Junior Year Writing requirement of another major are exempted from this requirement.

5. A six-page Senior Summary and a one-page Abstract at the completion of the major.
6. Completion of the foreign language requirement if six or more courses in the student's concentration are in departments in the Arts and Sciences (Colleges of Humanities and Fine Arts, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Social and Behavioral Sciences). For guidelines on fulfilling the foreign language requirement, see the Arts and Sciences section of this *Catalog*.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the program have been very successful in the employment sector and in graduate or professional school. Past surveys of alumni have shown that 80% of those responding were either in careers or graduate school (or both) related to their individual concentrations. This success stems from the high level of motivation and capacity for self-direction characteristic of students who design their own major, as well as the specificity of their academic preparation for a given career and/or graduate program of study.

Recent BDIC Concentrations

The following list is drawn from the titles of programs designed by recent BDIC students. This provides only a sample of representative concentrations and is not meant to limit the possibilities for any potential majors:

Arts and Cultural Studies

Asian Studies
International Relations
Japan and the European Community
Modern European Cultural History
Third World Development
American Studies
History and Racism
Sociolinguistics
Philosophy and Literature
Cultural Studies through Literature and Politics
Arts Administration
Architecture and Culture
Comparative Religion and Holocaust Studies
Buddhist Philosophy through Art
Biblical Archaeology

Writing about American Society
Creative Writing
Theatre and Social Change
Human Ecology

Business and Law

Organizational Behavior
Entrepreneurial Studies
Computer Applications in Finance and Economics
Global Economics and Finance
Economics and Investments
Investment Psychology
Sales Strategies and Social Behavior
Human Resource Management
Labor-Management Relations
Land and Environmental Resource Management
Construction Management
Economics and Legal Studies
Law in Society
Southeast Asian Cultures and Commerce
International Trade and Foreign Policy
International Development and Finance

Communication

Screenwriting
Critical Film Studies
Film and Twentieth Century American Culture
Documentary Filmmaking/Native American Studies
Filmmaking: Directing for Cinema
Political Communication
Instructional Media
Consumer Psychology in Communication
Communication Arts and Film Technology
Photojournalism
Social Perspectives through Journalism
Public Relations in Sports Industries
Creative Writing and Advertising
Psychology and Advertising
Multimedia Technology in Advertising
Intercultural Communication
Archaeological Tourism

Education and Human Development

Adolescent Development and Education
Educational Media
Language and Speech Development
Educational Reform for a Multicultural Society
Public Policy and Human Services
The Therapeutic Application of Dance Education
Criminal Psychology
Health Education Counseling
Women's Health Issues and Eating Disorders
Gerontology and Social Welfare
Pre-Art Therapy
Culture, Society and Personality
Health and Fitness Management
Arts for the Handicapped
Writing Children's Literature

Continuing Education

Health, Natural, and Computer Sciences/ Engineering

Human Physiology and Psychology
Neuroscience
Bio-Ethics and Medical Sociology
Exercise Physiology and Nutrition
Nutrition and the Developing World
Public Health Policy
Holistic Health
Environmental Health and Science
Political Economy of Natural Resources
Primate Conservation
Environmental Chemistry and Anthropology
Ecological Economics
Human Factors Engineering
Computer Science/Linguistics
Computer Graphics
Educational Computer Animation
Systems Software Engineering
Building Construction Technique and Design
Theory
Scientific Journalism
Land Use Planning and Policy

The Courses

396A Independent Study, 1-12 cr

396B Independent Study, 1-12 cr

396P Independent Study—Proposal, 1 cr

496A Independent Study, 1-12 cr

496B Independent Study, 1-12 cr

496C Junior Year Writing in Interdisciplinary Studies, 3 cr

Degree: Bachelor of General Studies

Contact: Information Desk
Office: 358 N. Pleasant St.
Phone: 545-2414
E-mail: contined@admin.umass.edu
Website: www.umass.edu/contined

For over 25 years, the Division of Continuing Education, a University Outreach unit, has provided access to the academic resources of the University to those people of the Commonwealth who are not full-time degree students, to local and national business firms throughout the state, and to the general community. An administrative arm of Academic Affairs, the Division works closely with the various academic units in planning and offering credit and noncredit programs to meet the needs of non-traditional students.

Continuing Education meets the educational needs of more than 15,000 people each year with a variety of programs that include evening credit courses during the fall and spring semesters; University summer and winter sessions courses; access to specialized on-campus and off-campus undergraduate and graduate degree programs; professional development programs and workshops; certificate programs; independent study courses and internships; specialized courses designed to meet specific needs; non-credit workshops in the areas of English as a Second Language, personal enrichment, career and personal development, and recreation; and online courses. The Performing Arts Division (PAD) provides music, theater, and dance instruction to students of all ages and all levels of ability. PAD offers private and group instruction and recital experience to students on campus and people in the community who do not otherwise have the opportunity to study with resident faculty.

Any person who has graduated from high school or has a certificate of General Educational Development (G.E.D.) may enroll in undergraduate courses through the Division. Admission to a degree program (matriculation) follows general University admissions guidelines.

Online Courses and Degree Programs

Undergraduate- and graduate-level courses are offered online at the University's virtual campus, accessed at www.UMAmherstOnline.org. Approximately twenty courses are offered each semester, as well as during summer and

winter sessions. Three graduate degree programs are also offered online. The accelerated M.B.A. program is designed for professionals who want to continue their education in the management field. The Master of Science (Nursing) in Community/School Health prepares advanced-practice nurses as expert clinicians in the care of children, adolescents, and their families in diverse community and school health settings. The Master of Public Health provides graduate education for practicing professionals with relevant public health-related experience.

Online courses are developed and taught by resident University faculty and meet the same academic requirements as traditional on-campus courses.

Degree Programs

The Bachelor of General Studies (B.G.S.) is a University of Massachusetts degree available to part-time students through the Division of Continuing Education. The B.G.S. is flexible and responsive to special needs that cannot be met in traditional full-time day programs. It is specifically designed for people whose other responsibilities—family, work, or other life circumstances—make full-time work toward a degree difficult. The program of study is built around individual goals and interests. Every B.G.S. student receives personalized academic advising.

The B.G.S. with Individual Concentration allows students to design a program of study combining courses in two or more academic departments. Students work with an academic adviser and a faculty sponsor in one of the relevant departments to plan an academically sound concentration directed toward specific career goals or areas of interest.

Possible concentrations are almost unlimited. Past concentrations have included such areas as environmental waste management, arts administration, pre-law, human services administration, and horticultural therapy. The B.G.S. degree has been used advantageously by three different groups of Continuing Education students: 1) those who would like to orient their degree more specifically toward a career area that demands interdisciplinary study; 2) those who are already established in a career but would like the benefits of a general liberal arts degree; and 3) those who are looking for a specific match of disciplines not easily obtainable in a traditional single academic major. Academic advisers are available to help students with degree programs or courses related to their life and career objectives.

University Without Walls

In collaboration with academic departments, the Division provides course access for several University degree programs: two specialized programs leading to the B.S. in Nursing (one for R.N.s without a B.S.N., and one for individuals who have a baccalaureate degree in a field other than Nursing); the part-time, off-campus professional M.B.A. offered by the Isenberg School of Management; the M.S. in Labor Studies offered by the Labor Relations and Research Center; the M.Mus. in Music Education offered by the Department of Music and Dance; the Soil Science Certificate and the M.S. in Plant and Soil Sciences, and the M.P.H. in Epidemiology, offered at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester as part of the degree program of the School of Public Health and Health Sciences.

The Division also provides access to the School of Education's postbaccalaureate teacher certification program. In collaboration with the University of Rhode Island, the Division provides some course access and administrative support on the Amherst campus for a program leading to an M.S. in Library and Information Studies at the University of Rhode Island.

Ongoing Division programs include the Arts Extension Service, which helps develop self-sufficient community-based arts programs and provides services and training for individual students, artists, and artist groups. The University's Family Business Center assists family-owned companies in recognizing their common problems and in finding solutions to the unique challenges confronting them. The center offers members an educational, interactive learning environment, including presentations by experts from the fields of psychology, management training and development, law, accounting, financial and estate planning, and banking.

Montague House

Degrees: Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Science

Contact: Gary Bernhard, Director
Office: Montague House
Phone: 545-0844, 545-1378
Web site: www.umass.edu/uww
E-mail: uww@uww.umass.edu

Academic Staff: Abel, Bernhard, Bracey, Dowling, Golding, Hendra, Koski, Medina.
Administrative Staff: Brinkerhoff, Fusek.

Founded in 1971, the University Without Walls (UWW) is the University of Massachusetts' adult degree program. Serving students in most fields available at the University, UWW offers individualized degrees which may be similar to majors offered by other departments or may be interdisciplinary in nature. UWW students earn a B.A. or B.S. degree depending on the program they design. They must meet all University requirements for bachelor's degrees including completion of 120 credits with 45 credits in residency and all General Education requirements. Many of these requirements can be satisfied through transfer credit.

The UWW curriculum puts strong emphasis on the development of communication skills, critical reading, and critical thinking. It also encourages students to explore the relationship between practical experience and academic learning, and to strike a balance between the two. As part of our commitment to the role that work and other experience can play in education, most students develop a credit-bearing portfolio describing and analyzing the learning they have gained through experience.

Most students in UWW are working adults with family and community responsibilities which make obtaining a bachelor's degree through a conventional route difficult or impossible. For this reason, UWW offers comprehensive and supportive advising from the time students matriculate. Our students come from an unusually wide range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and this diversity is valued in UWW. The program serves students throughout the Commonwealth, although the majority come from Central and Western Massachusetts including the Greater Springfield area. Courses are often provided at off-campus locations, and UWW has also developed a low-residency, distance-learning option for its three core courses.

The Courses

(All courses carry 3 credits unless otherwise noted.)

191A Perspectives on Learning (*both sem*)

An introduction to higher education for adult learners. Focus on development of intellectual skills (critical reading, effective writing, efficient organization, and critical thinking); the methodologies common in the academy. The relationships between academic and experiential learning and the larger social context of higher education.

193A Introduction to the Biological Sciences (BS) (*1st sem*)

Key ideas of modern biology for a general student audience. Basic concepts such as cell structure, molecular genetics, and evolution, and recent developments in genetic engineering and biotechnology. Primary focus on achievement of scientific literacy through understanding of basic scientific information. Social implications also discussed.

196Y Independent Study—Degree Development (*both sem*) 2 cr

Students work in groups and individually to master the skills of individual degree development. Extensive writing and re-writing, library research, formal interviewing of faculty experts and practitioners. Students document their exploration of their field and produce a coherent, well-developed degree proposal.

240 Introduction to Ecology (BS) (*2nd sem*)

Principles of modern ecology for a general student audience. How natural communities work. Topics include populations, community structure, major biomes (e.g., deserts, grasslands, forests, and rain forests), prospects for conservation. Readings, films, and field trips.

370 Writing About Experience (*both sem*)

Students analyze in writing those experiences which have changed the way they understand and solve problems. Frequent assignments, the revision process, and peer editing help students organize and focus their writings. Satisfies Junior Year Writing requirement.