

# CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

**Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies:**  
Michelle Garland, Ph.D.

The Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) offers the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree on the USC Upstate campus and on the USC Upstate Greenville campus. Interdisciplinary studies provides students the opportunity to broaden their education by developing, in consultation with an advisor, a multidisciplinary or individualized program of study to meet their educational and career goals.

## Bachelors

- Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (<https://academic-catalog.uscupstate.edu/academic-centers/interdisciplinary-studies/bachelor-interdisciplinary-studies/>)
- Organizational Leadership, Bachelor of Arts (Spring 2024) (<https://academic-catalog.uscupstate.edu/academic-centers/interdisciplinary-studies/organizational-leadership-ba/>)

## Certificates

- Leadership Certificate (<https://academic-catalog.uscupstate.edu/academic-centers/interdisciplinary-studies/leadership-certificate/>)

## Minors

- Interdisciplinary Studies Minor (<https://academic-catalog.uscupstate.edu/academic-centers/interdisciplinary-studies/interdisciplinary-studies-minor/>)
- Nonprofit Administration Minor (<https://academic-catalog.uscupstate.edu/academic-centers/interdisciplinary-studies/nonprofit-administration-minor/>)

Harrington, Charles, Professor

Packer, Mark, Assoc Professor

### Interdisciplinary Studies

#### **IDST U300 Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies 3 Credit Hours**

Approaches to understanding, analyzing, and synthesizing information from varied perspectives. Emphasis is on researching, writing, and crafting sound arguments from multi-disciplinary approaches. Prerequisite(s): ENGL U102.

#### **IDST U301 Ethics in the Professions 3 Credit Hours**

A research seminar that investigates the laws and ethics codes of various professions, such as education, business, healthcare and data management. Each seminar participant selects one profession to track throughout the semester and reports on that field's laws, conduct requirements, legal cases and methods of conflict resolution. Evaluations are based on oral presentations, papers and participation in class discussion.

#### **IDST U398 Interdisciplinary Studies Internship 1-6 Credit Hours**

Supervised work experience in a community agency or business based on an individualized, contracted program planned in conjunction with a faculty member and approved by the student's advisor. For six internship credit hours, a student is to work 270 hours with an approved agency; for five credit hours, 225 work hours; for four credit hours, 180 hours; for three credit hours, 135 hours; for two credit hours, 90 hours; and for one credit hour, 45 hours. A student may repeat IDST U398 once with a different internship contract description for a total of no more than six hours of undergraduate credit.

Prerequisite(s): Junior standing and approved internship contract.

#### **IDST U399 Independent Study 1-6 Credit Hours**

An individualized, contracted research planned in conjunction with an Interdisciplinary Studies faculty member. May be repeated for a total of no more than six credit hours.

Prerequisite(s): Junior or Senior standing, GPA above 2.0 overall, and consent of instructor.

#### **IDST U401 Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies 3 Credit Hours**

Survey of selected topic planned around an area of faculty interest. Course may be repeated for additional credit during the same semester and subsequent semesters as topics vary.

Prerequisite(s): IDST U300, IDST U301, or consent of instructor.

#### **IDST U490 Senior Seminar in Interdisciplinary Studies 3 Credit Hours**

Reading and research on selected topics designed to explore issues of broad interdisciplinary interest. Particular emphasis is placed on integration of knowledge at an advanced level, exploration of ethical issues, and gain experience in research and oral presentation. Seminar topics vary.

Prerequisite(s): IDST U300, senior standing, and permission of IDS advisor.

## Nonprofit Administration

#### **NPAD U201 Nonprofit Leadership Workshop 1 Credit Hour**

Application of knowledge and skills reflecting essential nonprofit competencies of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Certification (CNP), practical experience in nonprofit organizations, leadership abilities, and meaningful service. May be repeated for a maximum of four semester hours.

#### **NPAD U301 The Nonprofit Sector in the United States 3 Credit Hours**

The importance of the nonprofit sector in the United States emphasizing the history, the relationship to business and government and the place of the nonprofit sector within American society generally.

Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing (30 semester hours).

#### **NPAD U302 Nonprofit Leadership 3 Credit Hours**

The fundamentals of nonprofit administration to include leadership, legal foundations, board development, the role of volunteers, nonprofit advocacy and ethics.

#### **NPAD U303 Nonprofit Financial Administration 3 Credit Hours**

Financial management within the nonprofit sector emphasizing strategic planning, budgeting, accountability, risk management and control.

Prerequisite(s): NPAD U302 or consent of instructor.

**NPAD U304 Fund Raising for Nonprofit Organizations 3 Credit Hours**

Fundamentals of resource development in the nonprofit sector including strategic planning, principles of philanthropy, proposal writing, event planning, and charitable trusts.

Prerequisite(s): NPAD U302 or consent of instructor.

**NPAD U399 Independent Study 1-4 Credit Hours**

An individualized, contracted program of study planned in conjunction with a faculty member.

Prerequisite(s): NPAD U301 and consent of instructor.

**NPAD U401 Topics in Nonprofit Leadership 3 Credit Hours**

Study in selected topics in nonprofit administration. Emphasis upon competencies necessary for emerging leaders in the nonprofit sector. May be repeated with permission of advisor.

Prerequisite(s): NPAD U301.

**NPAD U404 Social Entrepreneurship 3 Credit Hours**

Introduction to the history, theory and emerging activities of social entrepreneurship. Course topics also cover nonprofit administration skills for social entrepreneurial organizations, scaling of social impact, and social performance measurement.

Prerequisite(s): NPAD U301 or consent of instructor.

**NPAD U499 Field Experience in Nonprofit Leadership Hours 1-6 Credit**

Supervised work experience in a nonprofit organization. Forty-five hours of work for each credit hour are required.

Prerequisite(s): NPAD U301; junior or senior standing; and consent of instructor.

## University

**UNIV U101 The Student in the University 3 Credit Hours**

The purposes of higher education and the potential role of an individual student within the university and other learning environments. Open to freshmen only. This course does not count toward graduation in some majors.

**UNIV U102 Freshmen Orientation 1 Credit Hour**

The successful transition into higher education through social, personal and academic development. Considered are topics and activities in study skills, time management, goal setting, careers, health and wellness, responsibility, cultural awareness, and the enhancement of the relationship between the faculty adviser and the student.

**UNIV U103 Freshmen Orientation 1 Credit Hour**

The successful transition into higher education through academic, social and personal development. Considered are topics and activities in time management, goal setting, responsibility, and careers, with special emphasis on study skills. The academic performance of students, in all classes, is monitored throughout the semester. Required of academic skills students. (Students cannot receive credit for both University U103 and U102).

**UNIV U201 Leadership Development I 3 Credit Hours**

Various approaches to the definition of leadership and practical experience in building leadership skills. The critical questions of what is leadership, what are the qualities of a good leader, and what skills does a leader need are examined.

**UNIV U202 Introduction to Leadership II 2 Credit Hours**

Practical experience in building leadership skills within the context of community-based leadership. The focus is upon the most pressing needs for leadership within the community to allow students to become directly involved with a relevant project.

Prerequisite(s): UNIV U201.

**UNIV U203 Sophomore Orientation 1 Credit Hour****UNIV U204 Life Design 3 Credit Hours**

This course examines the contemporary research in career development (e.g., happiness, purpose, decision-making, values, experiential learning). The course guides students to use design thinking to apply the concepts to life action plans. Students will increase self-awareness and self-advocacy to maximize their potential and envision multiple pathways for further education and life-work balance, while understanding and applying theoretical concepts related to their strengths, professional acumen, self-awareness, and identity, known career narratives and life design theories that build resilience and networking through panel sessions, readings, projects, and small group seminars.

**UNIV U205 Personal Financial Literacy 1 Credit Hour**

Personal finance and financial literacy topics of student debt, budgeting, saving, credit, and spending.

**UNIV U206 Applied Financial Literacy 1 Credit Hour**

Applied topics of personal finance including student debt and repayment, budgeting, saving, credit, and spending.

Prerequisite(s): UNIV U205 or consent of instructor.

**UNIV U207 Advanced Financial Literacy 1 Credit Hour**

Advanced personal financial and financial literacy topics of savings accounts, retirement accounts, and brokerage/investment accounts.

Prerequisite(s): UNIV U205 or consent of instructor.

**UNIV U210 Prior Learning Portfolio Development 1 Credit Hour**

Preparation of a portfolio documenting college-level learning gained through life experiences such as employment, training, volunteer work, travel, and military experience. To demonstrate mastery of course outcomes, students prepare a portfolio of documents that can be used to apply for experiential credit assessment. Degree-seeking students who are enrolled in at least one course at USC Upstate may request evaluation of prior experience for credit as documented in a portfolio. Multiple portfolios may be submitted but UNIV U210 may not be repeated.

Prerequisite(s): ENGL U102 or consent of instructor.

**UNIV U304 Career Planning 3 Credit Hours**

Methods of career readiness, including planning, networking, professional resumes and cover letters, and interview techniques. Attendance at experiential learning events and career fairs is required.

Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in SPCH U201; and junior standing.

**UNIV U310 Leadership Development Internship 1-4 Credit Hours**

Practical application of leadership principles through a public service internship. Limited to participants in the Leadership Development Program.

Prerequisite(s): UNIV U202.

**UNIV U390 Peer Leadership Practicum 1-3 Credit Hours**

Application of specific guidance and teaching techniques while serving as a peer leader for University 101. Emphasis is placed on role modeling, group dynamics, creating classroom cohesion, using interactive teaching methods, and the importance of assessment. Acceptance into the peer leadership program is required. May be repeated for additional credit for maximum of six hours.

Prerequisite(s): UNIV U101 or consent of instructor.

**UNIV U398 Interdisciplinary Studies Internship 1-3 Credit Hours**

Supervised work experience in a community agency or business based on an individualized, contracted program planned in conjunction with a faculty member and approved by the student's advisor. For three internship credit hours, a student is to work 135 hours with an approved agency; for two credit hours, 90 work hours; for one credit, 45 hours. A student may repeat UNIV U398 once with a different internship contract description for a total of no more than six hours of undergraduate credit. Prerequisites: junior standing, and approved internship contract. This internship cannot be used to meet concentration requirements for bidisciplinary and multidisciplinary concentrations.

**UNIV U399 Independent Study 1-6 Credit Hours**

An individualized, contractual program of study planned in conjunction with a faculty member involved with the student's interdisciplinary program of study. May be repeated for a total of no more than six hours of undergraduate credit with consent of advisor.

Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or consent of instructor.