

*Earn one of the top degrees in the nation.....*



**A Bachelor of Science**  
*In*  
**INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

*Your degree.....Your way!*



*Made possible through a collaboration between*  
**Alabama Southern Community College**  
and  
**The University of South Alabama**



# Be a part of the fastest-growing major at the University of South Alabama!

Of hundreds of majors available to students in the United States, The Chronicle of Higher Education (2010) lists Interdisciplinary Studies as one of the top twenty majors in the country. Students in this major develop areas of expertise in three disciplines rather than a single field of study.

## Why is the Interdisciplinary Studies major so popular?

For students, the major provides an opportunity to.....

- ✓ *Design a customized bachelor's degree tailored to professional goals and interests*
- ✓ *Develop knowledge and skills in three disciplines of study*
- ✓ *Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking, interdisciplinary problem-solving, leadership and teamwork, and effective communication*
- ✓ *Engage in self-exploration and identify areas of skill and interest*
- ✓ *Enter the professions of choice with competitive knowledge and skills*

## How is the Interdisciplinary Studies degree structured?

Through a partnership between Alabama Southern Community College (ASCC) and the University of South Alabama (USA), students receiving an Associate in Science degree from ASCC can complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at USA, with a concentration in Administrative Sciences.

USA courses will be available in a variety of formats and locations, including on the ASCC campus, on the USA campus, and through online or blended online/face-to-face courses.

## Disciplines

Business Environment  
Health Sciences  
Data Processing Technology  
Interdisciplinary Studies

All students complete the requirements for the discipline of Interdisciplinary Studies and select two additional disciplines based on their individual professional goals and interests.

**Option A:** Business Environment, Data Processing Technology, Interdisciplinary Studies

**Option B:** Business Environment, Health Sciences, Interdisciplinary Studies

**Option C:** Health Sciences, Data Processing Technology, Interdisciplinary Studies

## The Capstone Experience

Students complete their programs of study through engaging in a two-semester Capstone Experience designed to integrate their academic studies with their career goals and facilitate the transition from student to professional. Students have the opportunity to complete either an internship or senior research thesis.

**Internship I and II.** Students who wish to participate in an internship to gain work experience in their fields of professional interest complete a two-semester internship sequence. In Internship I, students engage in 120 hours of supervised on-site work experience at an approved business, agency, or organization, in addition to completing academic readings and assignments. In Internship II, students engage in study, research, and writing designed to facilitate their transition from student to professional.



**Senior Research Thesis.** Students who wish to engage in undergraduate research complete a two-semester research sequence. A research proposal is developed and the project is completed under the supervision of a USA faculty member with expertise in the area of study. The Senior Research Thesis is designed to allow students to develop additional skills in critical thinking, writing, and research and is particularly suitable for those considering graduate study.

## What types of careers do Interdisciplinary Studies majors enter?

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, jobs typically available to Interdisciplinary Studies majors will grow faster than average in the coming years, and average salaries are highly competitive with those earned by professionals with more traditional degrees.

Career options are broad and dependent on the choice of disciplines of study. A *few* examples of the many career possibilities include:

**Option A: Business Environment, Data Processing Technology, Interdisciplinary Studies** may prepare a student for employment in the business environment, including roles involving office management, maintaining personnel or financial records, web design, and computer networking or programming.



A student selecting **Option B: Business Environment, Health Sciences, Interdisciplinary Studies** may pursue a career as an office manager or case worker in a health care setting, director of a health care agency, bookkeeper in a medical practice, or in marketing/public relations.

**Option C: Health Sciences, Data Processing Technology, Interdisciplinary Studies** would allow a student to develop a career in the rapidly expanding field of health informatics, specializing in the storage, retrieval, and sharing of medical records within and between medical offices or agencies, a case worker in a health care setting, or as an outreach worker.



**Department of Interdisciplinary Studies**  
**School of Continuing Education and Special Programs**

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