

BS Interdisciplinary Studies CPR Index (AY22-23)

- Department Chair Report
- IEB Review
- Academic Dean Response
- Provost Response



Comprehensive Program Review

AY 2022 – 2023

Institution: Middle Georgia State University

Academic Program: BS in Interdisciplinary Studies

College or School: School of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Department: Department of Political Science

CIP Code: 300000

Date of Last Internal Review: 1st CPR review

Faculty Completing Report: Christopher N. Lawrence, Ph.D.

Current Date: February 6, 2023

5 Year Enrollment by Campus and Graduation Trends

Enrollment

Campus	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	5 YR Growth	Fall 2018 compared to Fall 2022 only
Macon	1	8	5	8	2		
Cochran	1	2	7	24	11		
Warner Robins							
Dublin		3	4	1	1		
Eastman							
Online	5	2	15	43	48	76.02%	860%
Off Campus				3	7		
Total	7	15	31	79	69	77.19%	886%

Graduates

- For data consistency, the fiscal year is in which the degree was awarded. For examples, academic year 2019 includes degrees conferred in Summer 2018, Fall 2018, and Spring 2019.

AY 2018	AY 2019	AY 2020	AY 2021	AY 2022	3 YR Growth	AY2020 compared to AY2022 only
N/A	N/A	3	4	11	91.49%	267%

Program Purpose and Mission (as of fall 2023): The B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS B.S.) degree program is designed for students who have an interest in meeting societal needs through a unique interdisciplinary perspective. The IDS B.S. cultivates professional skills by preparing students to successfully apply writing, communication, research, and ethics across multiple disciplines toward the betterment of individuals and communities. This program allows students to maximize existing credits toward graduation and to integrate courses from a wide variety of academic areas that may not fit neatly in one specific major. To ensure students have the basic skills required in a professional world, seven (7) core classes are required. Courses will include topics on research, public administration, conflict resolution, program evaluation, communication and cultural sensitivity. Lastly, students will have an ethics and application course which is the capstone requirement; to include experiential learning drawing upon the skills obtained in previous classes. The IDS B.S. degree requires students to pick one focus area and take at least five (5) courses in that area. Students may have two (2) focus areas, but only one (1) is a requirement. This degree allows for flexibility in planning with the belief that many combinations of courses can meet students' educational needs and contribute to professional development and career preparation.

The mission of the program is aligned with those of the department, school, and university. According to the School of Education & Behavioral Sciences' mission statement, the school is a dynamic academic community that brings faculty, students and community stakeholders together to inspire and empower the next generation of professionals, practitioners, and scholars. The IDS B.S. degree contributes to this mission by fostering degree completion by returning and non-traditional students, as well as meeting the needs of students with diverse academic and professional interests that are not neatly encapsulated within a single discipline. The program reflects the university's core values of stewardship, engagement, adaptability, and learning by producing graduates equipped to contribute to the betterment of society through interaction with diverse societal and cultural perspectives.

Program Age, Tracks, etc.: The bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies program was established at MGA in the fall of 2018. As of the fall 2022 semester, the degree program includes a five-course upper-level interdisciplinary core, including requirements for a research methods course, a cultural competency course, a communication-focused course, and a course on grant writing and evaluation (PBSV 4030), along with an ethics and application capstone course (IDS 4510).

In keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the degree program, rather than a narrowly defined list of concentrations or tracks, students select a primary focus area (or concentration) that includes five upper-level courses in a discipline or field, and may optionally select a secondary focus area including additional courses (at least three of which must be upper-level courses). A minor field can be selected that includes some or all of the necessary upper-level and general credit for a focus area.

Accreditation information: The bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies is not separately accredited; as far as we are aware, no such disciplinary accreditation program currently exists at the undergraduate level.

Methods of delivery: While students can take courses that contribute toward the degree requirements on any MGA campus, the two upper-level core courses that must be taken for the degree (PBSV 4030 and IDS 4510) are solely offered online, and most of the other core courses are primarily offered online, although there are some courses meeting IDS core requirements that are available in hybrid or face-to-face formats and offered primarily on the Macon campus.

Changes since last review: This is the initial review of the program in its current form. However, the program was initially offered in fall 2016 by the former School of Information Technology and was transferred to the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences in fall 2018; at that time, significant curriculum changes were made to align it more closely with offerings in SEBS and facilitate the use of the B.S. in IDS degree as an alternative option for MGA students who had previously pursued the Bachelor of Science in Public Service/Human Services degree.

Benchmarks of progress: Student enrollment growth in the program has been robust over its history and the number of graduates per year has steadily grown since the first degrees were awarded in AY 2020 despite institutional headwinds such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of AY 2022 graduates met USG standards for program productivity and the number of AY 2023 graduates is anticipated to also meet these standards.

Plans for action: In 2022, responsibility for the BS IDS degree was transferred from the Department of Teacher Education and Social Work to the Department of Political Science, in part to better equalize advising and service workloads across the school's departments. As part of this process, a review of the B.S. in IDS degree curriculum was initiated with the goals of identifying ways the degree could be better aligned with the mission and expertise of the political science department and its faculty, as well as ensuring the course options fulfilling degree requirements were consistent with current offerings and degree was clearly distinct from the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (BAIS) offered by the School of Arts and Letters.

As a result of this review, catalog changes were proposed and approved for the 2023–24 academic catalog that will change the B.S. in IDS core requirements to include an explicit requirement for MATH 1401 (Elementary Statistics) in Area A, D, or F, which is already a prerequisite for several of the IDS methods course options. POLS 2601 (Introduction to Public

Administration) is also introduced in Area F to give students a common lower-level course in the degree program to strengthen a freshman-level three-course focus area along with MATH 1401 and POLS 1101. The upper-level IDS core was also expanded to include a required course on conflict resolution and negotiation (POLS 3640/PBSV 3040), and elective options in the core were also updated to include additional methods, communications, and cultural competency electives offered by various departments and schools and reflect curricular changes and course renumberings (such as the creation of the professional writing/PFWR course prefix). Finally, the requirement for advisor approval of elective credit was removed to align the degree more closely with current practice in other degree programs such as the BAIS and reduce student confusion.

Shifting trends and market forces that may impact program demand: The primary audiences for the B.S. in IDS degree program to date have been non-traditional students, particularly students who have returned to college with a large number of earned credits but no bachelor's degree, and students who are unable to progress in their original degree program due to failing to meet program gateway requirements (such as a minimum GPA or minimum grades to progress to upper-level courses).

As MGA becomes more of a destination institution, we also anticipate that a third group of students—students with an *a priori* interest in bringing together perspectives from multiple fields—will become more interested in the program as well.

Regardless, we anticipate that the B.S. in IDS degree should retain a robust enrollment as it is a program that does not typically appeal to first-time full-time freshman students, a decline in which (dubbed the “enrollment cliff”) is anticipated to affect overall undergraduate enrollment at MGA and other USG institutions in the coming CPR cycle.

IEB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Date Reviewed:

Program Reviewed: BS in Interdisciplinary Studies

Contextual Notes: Summarize any demographic or environmental factors described in the introduction that might significantly impact assessment of the program

This program was transferred from the former School of Information Technology to the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences in Fall 2018, and then to Department of Political Science in 2022. Changes have been proposed and adopted for 2023-24.

Area of Focus	Exemplary Area	Satisfactory Area	Area of Concern	No Evidence	Notes
Enrollment	<i>This program has significantly positive enrollment trends and robust credit hour production</i>	<i>This program has stable or moderately positive enrollment trends and healthy credit hour production</i>	<i>This program has negative enrollment trends and weak credit hour production</i>		
Graduation Trends USG benchmark: Bachelor's Degrees: 10 graduates/year Graduate, Associate's or Certificates: 5 graduates/year <small>Programs falling under these benchmarks are designated as "low performing"</small>	Enrollment rates between 2018-2022: Online: 76.02% growth Graduation rates between 2020-2022: 91.49% growth		In person (all campuses): F20: 16 f21: 33 f22: 14 Graduation rates by the numbers for 2020 and 2021 were low (3 and 4 respectively) but 2022 showed a significant jump (11 students).	No graduation information available for 2018 and 2019 (program was too new).	The current form of this program is newer (starting in 2020), and has seen most of its growth from the online sector. The in-person data shows some instability in enrollment and much lower numbers than the online numbers, but within a reasonable margins for Cochran, beneath the thresholds for Macon and Dublin. Fall 2021 seems to have been a high points, especially in Cochran.

IEB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Program Strengths of Note:

The online sector is driving the program enrollment, and the program represents a larger appeal to “untraditional students” making it less susceptible to the forthcoming “enrollment cliff”. The lack of concentration is also a draw as it allows greater student choice and flexibility.

Graduation rates are rising.

Areas of Concern:

As with many programs, the in-person enrollment is uncertain but overall is balanced by the rising online demand.

The program has been inconsistent due to the passing of oversight among three departments, with impending updates to core and elective requirements and options. Assuming the program remains where it is, consistency should be established, although for this review period it is still a cause for possible concerns.

Other Comments:

The non-traditional target audience of this program could be part of the reason for some of the instabilities and concerns noted.

IEB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Comprehensive Program Review Report

Academic Program Name: BS in Interdisciplinary Studies

College or School: School of Education & Behavioral Sciences

Department: Political Science

Date of Last Internal Review: This is the first CPR review of the BSIS

Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement, if applicable): N/A

Current Date: 5/8/2023

Executive Summary: *Provide a summary related to the academic program's quality, viability, and productivity of efforts in teaching and learning, scholarship, and service as appropriate to the institution's mission. If this is the initial review of the program address how the program is/is not meeting the enrollment and credit hour projects contained in the original program proposal. Include a statement of plans for action based on the overall categorical summation contained in the next section.*

The BS in IDS program serves a valuable niche in MGA's academic portfolio, allowing for a flexible "degree-completion" program for non-traditional and transfer students, as well as a more customizable degree program for students looking to combine the perspectives of multiple disciplines in their course of study. The program is just under five years old now and has a new academic home within the Dept. of Political Science. At the beginning of the Spring 2023 semester, the IDS program had an enrollment of 54 students. Eleven students graduated in 2022, and we have 5 students graduating with this degree in May 2023 alone.

There are some curricular improvements that have been approved and become effective with the Fall 2023 semester. These will help to give the program a more distinct identity and allow it to fit more fully within the scope of the Dept. of Political Science's purview. Future plans include marketing this heavily to the adult learner population in our region.

Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

- Program MEETS Institution's Criteria
- Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.
 - Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.
- Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria
 - Program will be placed on a monitoring status.
 - Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.
 - Program will be deactivated.
 - Program will be voluntarily terminated.
 - Other (identify/add text):

Academic Dean Signature: *David M. Biak*
Dean of Graduate Studies Signature (when applicable):

Date: 5/8/2023

Comprehensive Program Review Report Academic Program Name: BS in Interdisciplinary Studies
College or School: School of Education & Behavioral Sciences
Department: Political Science
Date of Last Internal Review: This is the first CPR review of the BSIS

Provosts Response:

Having thoroughly reviewed the comprehensive program review for the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS), I concur with the analysis provided by the Institutional Effectiveness Board, Department Chair, and Dean. It is evident that strategic action is required to further enhance the program and ensure its continued success.

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) is currently slated for prioritized program modification and potential reorganization in our ongoing commitment to advancing student success and aligning with institutional objectives. This initiative is specifically geared towards enhancing student retention and progress within the broader IDS program. By carefully evaluating and adjusting the curriculum, we aim to create a more responsive learning environment that is attuned to the diverse needs of our students. This endeavor is firmly rooted in our dedication to meeting the institution's mission and strategic priorities, ensuring that the IDS program continues to play a vital role in our educational offerings.

Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.

Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

X Program PARTIALLY MEETS Institution's Criteria and proposed BIS will be re-evaluated in 3 Years _____.

Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

Program will be placed on a 2 year monitoring status.

Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.


Program will be deactivated.

Program will be voluntarily terminated.

Other (identify/add text):

Provost or VPAA Signature:

Date:



1/23/24