Three Big Things:
- Prior Learning Credit
- Individual Degree Programs
- Accelerated Programs

The Interdisciplinary Studies Program offers three categories of degree options: 1) Liberal Arts, 2) Prior Learning and 3) Multidisciplinary Studies.

Liberal Arts
This program is designed for students selecting a field of study, which represents a traditional "Liberal Arts" education. The degree requires 60 upper division credits selected from three breadth areas: Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Humanities. Within each breadth area, students are required to successfully complete 20 credits. Students who participate in the Liberal Arts option select from and attend courses that are offered as part of each department's regularly scheduled curriculum.

Students are continually counseled on their goals and objectives in order to properly select the appropriate course work for their individual degree plans. The department stresses five fundamental concepts throughout the educational plan: critical thinking, problem solving, computer skills, and verbal and written communication skills.

Growth in Eastern's Liberal Arts option continues as students become acquainted with the numerous career opportunities as well as graduate/professional programs desiring candidates with this major.

A recent in-depth investigation into educational competence traced the careers of corporate employees at AT&T for 27 years. The study revealed that Liberal Arts graduates have a greater chance of reaching mid-to-higher levels of management after 20 years, than co-workers who graduated in other degree programs.

Prior Learning
This Option provides the adult learner who has acquired specialized professional or paraprofessional experience the opportunity to have career experiences evaluated for a block of elective credit (45 maximum).

The university requires prior learning to be documented through participation in the Portfolio Development course, (ITDS 300) to guide/mentor the student in preparation of a portfolio. This portfolio articulates, demonstrates and validates learning outcomes and skills acquired throughout their career experiences. Once completed, the portfolio is submitted to an Eastern Washington University academic department for review and assessment by an Eastern Washington University full-time faculty member.

Under this degree option the adult learner works with an advisor to design an upper division emphasis that meets his/her specific goals and objectives. This commonly includes departmental minors/certificates.

Students in off campus, ITDS programs (Riverpoint and Bellevue Community College), participate in a curriculum designed by the ITDS Curriculum Advisory Committee. A comprehensive needs assessment (e.g., surveys, focus groups, information meetings, etc.) is conducted prior to finalization of any off campus program to assure that the expressed need is realistic and subsequently addressed appropriately.
According to the Chronicle of Higher Education adult students now make up close to 50% of all college enrollments in the United States, and the single reason most return is to enhance their careers.

The Prior Learning program continues to grow with increasing numbers of adult learners seeking completion of their baccalaureate degrees.

Multidisciplinary Studies
This is the only program at Eastern Washington University that enables a student to design a curriculum to facilitate his/her academic goals and objectives, that may not be found or exist in a traditional major. This option requires significant review of the student's intentions, both career and academic, in order to design an appropriate curriculum. This option requires the student to complete 60 upper division credits in course work selected from a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) academic departments, programs or certificates. Students participating in this program are guided through a projected degree planning process, which includes the ITDS director, faculty and department chairs. Once the student's program is established and validated by the participating academic departments, the ITDS program continues to monitor the student's progress.

For Further Information
Interdisciplinary Studies

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Internet Access
The program website provides more information. Please go to:
www.ewu.edu/itds

The University
Eastern Washington University is a student-centered, regionally based, comprehensive university. Its campus is located in Cheney within the Spokane metropolitan area, with additional learning centers in the region and elsewhere in Washington State. With more than 100 fields of study, nine master's degrees, four graduate certificates, 76 graduate programs and a physical therapy doctoral program, its mission is to prepare broadly educated, technologically proficient, and highly productive citizens to attain meaningful careers, to enjoy enriched lives, and to make contributions to a culturally diverse society.

Our mission to be a student-centered, regionally engaged university will be fulfilled best through a distinguished EWU academic experience that is integrated and interdependent. This vision informs and inspires our future.

Note:
Information in this guide is subject to change without notice. To learn more about the official program of study for Interdisciplinary Studies please check the catalog online at:
http://www.ewu.edu/x15588.xml