

School of

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MAJORS

- Interdisciplinary Studies BIS*
- Liberal Studies BLS*

* Available fully online

MINORS

- American Indian Studies Minor*
- Black Studies Minor
- Disability Studies Minor
- Health and Medical Humanities Minor
- Human Rights Minor
- Non-Profit Studies Minor*
- Social Science and Medicine Minor
- Women's and Gender Studies Minor


CERTIFICATES

- The Leadership Experience Certificate
- RISE (Researching, Including, Supporting and Educating) to the Top! Certificate
- Southern Miss Gulf Scholars Certificate

CONTACT US

 601.266.4317  ispd@usm.edu

 usm.edu/ispd

 [@usmartsandsciences](https://www.instagram.com/usmartsandsciences)

Post-secondary students in the State of Mississippi often choose to attend a Mississippi community college (MS CC) and earn an associate degree before transferring to The University of Southern Mississippi to complete their bachelor's degree. To make this transition as smooth as possible and to ensure no credits are lost, we have created this transfer guide. In most, but not all, cases, students may complete a bachelor's degree in what we refer to as a '2+2' format:

2 years at a MS CC for an associate degree, which includes general education coursework





+

2 years at USM to complete the bachelor's degree

Please use the key below to determine which courses you must, should, or could take at a Mississippi community college before transferring to Southern Miss.

KEY



 MUST	Students who do not complete these requirements at a MS CC cannot complete their bachelor's degree in the 2+2 format.
 SHOULD	Students should complete these requirements at a MS CC in order to have the smoothest transition to Southern Miss. It may still be possible to complete a bachelor's degree in the 2+2 format without taking these courses, but it will be challenging.
 COULD	Students could complete these requirements at a MS CC if they desire. Not taking these courses prior to transferring will not affect a student's ability to complete their bachelor's degree in the 2+2 format.
 CALCULUS READINESS	Calculus is required on this degree plan. Students should arrive at Southern Miss ready to take Calculus I, which means they must have completed Trigonometry or have a Math ACT subscore ≥ 26 . Students may complete Calculus I prior to transferring if they desire.



NOTE: *This document is intended as a guide; it does not guarantee graduation in the 2+2 format. Degree requirements are subject to change. Please consult the school of your desired major for up-to-date requirements.*

Additional majors are available from the other Southern Miss colleges.

College of Education & Human Sciences

Hattiesburg 601.266.4568

Gulf Park 228.214.3340

College of Nursing & Health Professions

Hattiesburg 601.266.5445

AskCNHP@usm.edu

College of Business & Economic Development

Hattiesburg 601.266.4659

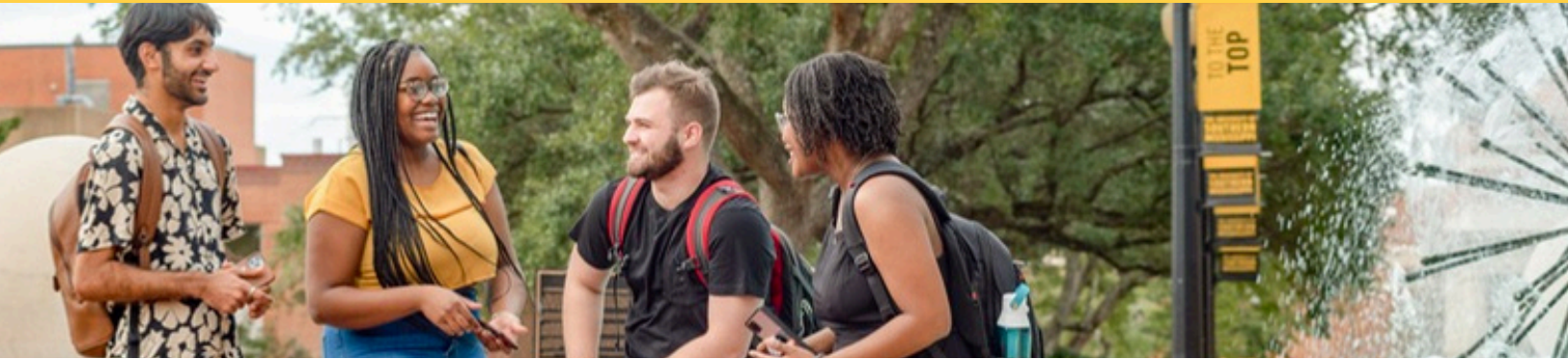
Gulf Park 228.214.3447

business@usm.edu



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN
MISSISSIPPI

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES & LIBERAL STUDIES



INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) is for students who are:

- Motivated and creative and want to do something a little different.
- Interested in multiple majors but still want to graduate in four years.
- Looking for a specific degree not offered at USM.

Students tailor their studies by:

- Selecting two or more 18-hour concentrations from a wide range of minors or designing their own.
- Choosing a single 36-hour concentration, either from established options like environmental or disability studies, or creating a personalized concentration with advisor guidance

RESEARCH AT USM

- Students take the IDS 401 and IDS 402 sequence in which they complete a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, research-based project, which culminates the degree.
- Students are encouraged to present their research at USM's Undergraduate Symposium on Research and Creative Activity.

LIBERAL STUDIES

The Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) is for students who:

- Have broad interests.
- Have taken courses in a variety of academic areas.
- Require a flexible schedule such as those in the military.
- Started a degree, then took time away, and now would like to complete a degree.
- Are mid-career professionals who seek a bachelor's degree for advancement in their field.

Students choose from a variety of courses in three of the following academic areas:

- Arts & Media, Business
- Health & Education
- Humanities & Communication
- Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies
- Science & Engineering

Students also select a minor or 18-hour concentration.

CAREER READINESS

- Both the BIS and BLS degrees broadly prepare students for a variety of career opportunities.
- Both degrees can be tailored for students who want to pursue a pre-professional curriculum (law or health).
- Both degrees encourage students to pursue internships, practicums, and other experiential learning activities to build core skills for career success.

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INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES BIS 2+2



Students interested in the BIS degree should contact the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Professional Development as soon as possible. Designing this degree requires consultation with a USM advisor and a school-director approved concentration proposal.

CHECKLIST

COURSES

Updated August 2025



EXPLORE AREAS OF INTEREST

You will design a degree pathway focusing on your academic interests and talents.

Visit usm.edu/ispd and select 'Programs' for more information.

Call 601.266.4317 to connect with an advisor.

Three ways to design your BIS degree:

- Create a 36 hour concentration in consultation with a USM advisor.
- Choose an existing specialty concentration: Environmental Studies or Disability Studies.
- Choose two minors as your concentration areas.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BLS V.S. BIS?

- The Liberal Studies BLS is more appropriate for transfer students than new, first-time college students (traditional freshmen).
- The Liberal Studies BLS has slightly more structure than the Interdisciplinary Studies BIS in that students are required to take courses in (3) different academic areas. It has less coherence in that the courses do not have to have any thematic connection.
- Both degrees are very flexible but neither is the "take anything you want" degree. Students must follow the degree plan in the bulletin.
- Neither degree is a "general studies" degree.



NOTE: This document is intended as a guide. Please contact the School of of Interdisciplinary Studies and Professional Development at 601.266.4317 or bis@usm.edu to check on current degree requirements.

LIBERAL STUDIES BLS **2+2**



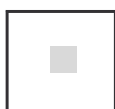
You will create a degree pathway by selecting three areas and a minor concentration.

Explore areas of interest with an eye toward choosing 3 areas and explore minor options from among the list of available minors offered at USM.

CHECKLIST

COURSES

Updated August 2025



EXPLORE AREAS OF INTEREST

Areas will be chosen with the help of an advisor after transferring to USM. Visit usm.edu/ispd and select 'Programs' for more information.

AREAS (Prefix Groupings)

- Art and Media
- Business & Economic Development
- Health & Education
- Humanities & Communication
- Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies
- Science & Engineering



EXPLORE MINOR OPTIONS

Visit usm.edu/ispd and select 'Programs' for more information about available academic minors.

A minimum of 25% of the credit hours required for a minor must be earned at Southern Miss.

Select from a list of 75+ minors offered at USM.



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