



What Can I Do With This Major?

Interdisciplinary Studies

*Interdisciplinary Studies is a broad degree that can lead to job opportunities in many different fields. Skills and experiences gained through co-curricular activities, internships, part-time jobs, and volunteering are critical in shaping a career path. Develop a career goal and seek the right background to become a strong candidate. The following are specific career areas, types of employers, and strategies for **Interdisciplinary Studies** students to consider as they move from college to career:*

Career Area	Type of Employer	Career Strategies
Business: Sales Customer Service Management Insurance: Underwriting Claims Management Sales Real Estate: Property Management Sales Human Resources Training and Development	Product and service organizations Retail stores Hotels Restaurants Manufacturers Banks and financial institutions Insurance companies Hospitals and other healthcare organizations Print and electronic media Real estate agencies	>Earn a minor in business or take business classes. >Develop strong verbal and written communication, interpersonal, and analytical skills. >Learn to work well on a team. >Seek leadership roles in other campus organizations. >Gain experience through internships, part-time, or summer jobs. >Develop computer skills in areas such as spread sheets, databases, and presentation software. >Join related professional associations. >Conduct informational interviews to learn about jobs of interest and to build a network of contacts. >Be prepared to start in entry-level positions such as management trainee programs.

<i>Career Area</i>	<i>Type of Employer</i>	<i>Career Strategies</i>
Labor Relations Writing/Editing Corporate Communication Office Management	Consulting firms Research firms Other business corporations	>Look for companies that have an interest in hiring “any major.”
Public Relations / Advertising: Public Relations Advertising Marketing Corporate Public Affairs Investor Relations Development Event Coordination Media Analysis/Planning Creative Directing Writing/Editing Audience Analysis Public Opinion Research	Private corporations Public relations firms Advertising agencies Radio and television companies Public opinion research firms Sports and entertainment organizations Hospitality and tourism industry Nonprofit organizations Government agencies Labor unions Educational institutions	>Take courses in marketing, advertising, public relations, or other area of interest. >Gain experience through internships, even if unpaid. >Develop excellent writing and public speaking skills. >Serve as public relations officer of an organization. >Develop a portfolio of writing samples, ad campaigns, and other relevant work. >Join related professional associations. >Find a mentor in a related field to provide career guidance. >Consider moving to cities with larger numbers of job opportunities. >Be prepared to start at the bottom and work into positions with greater responsibility

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	Consulting firms Freelance	
<p>Non-Profit:</p> <p>Administration Management Grant Writing Writing/Editing Fundraising/Development Public Relations Volunteer Coordination Program Coordination Research Religious Work: Pastoral and Other Religious Leadership Mission Work Religious Camp Administration Local Ministries, e.g. Youth, Adult, Education</p>	<p>Local and national nonprofit organizations</p> <p>Professional associations</p> <p>Chambers of commerce</p> <p>Community centers Philanthropies Hospitals Foundations Churches, synagogues, mosques</p> <p>Religious organizations, e.g. camps, retreat centers, denominational boards</p>	<p>>Take courses in psychology, sociology, or social work to broaden perspective.</p> <p>>Develop a wide array of skills including writing, speaking, budgeting, and grant writing.</p> <p>>Obtain leadership roles in relevant campus, church, or community groups.</p> <p>>Complete one or more internship(s) with nonprofit organizations.</p> <p>>Learn to work well with different types of people.</p> <p>>Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area, e.g. public health, environment, urban issues.</p> <p>>Research organizations' values to find a good fit with yours. It is critical that you are knowledgeable about and care about the organizations' missions.</p> <p>>Consider earning a master's degree in public administration or non-profit administration.</p> <p>>For religious work, research requirements to enter leadership in the faith you want to pursue. For example,</p> <p>>Master of Divinity and denominational ordination are required</p>

<i>Career Area</i>	<i>Type of Employer</i>	<i>Career Strategies</i>
		for most clergy positions.
<p>Government:</p> <p>City or Town Management</p> <p>Community Affairs</p> <p>Campaigning</p> <p>Legislative Assistance</p> <p>Public Information</p> <p>Research</p> <p>Lobbying</p> <p>Conflict Negotiation</p> <p>Program Administration</p> <p>General Services</p> <p>Social Services</p> <p>Foreign Service</p> <p>Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Services</p>	<p><i>>There are over 170 departments and agencies in the federal government.</i></p> <p><i>Conduct research to determine which are a good fit for you.</i></p> <p>Local and state government</p> <p>Political parties</p> <p>Political action committees</p> <p>Legislatures and other elected public officials</p> <p>School districts</p> <p>Court systems</p>	<p>>Minor in an applicable interest area such as business, political science, or public administration.</p> <p>>Take courses in conflict management and develop negotiation skills.</p> <p>>Volunteer to work on a local or national political campaigns.</p> <p>>Join related student organizations and earn leadership roles. Get involved with student government and campus campaigns.</p> <p>>Complete an internship with a government agency to get a foot in the door.</p> <p>>Maintain a strong grade point average as many government programs are very competitive.</p> <p>>Learn local, state, and federal government job application procedures. Visit the campus career center for assistance.</p> <p>>Develop a network of contacts through informational interviews and referrals</p>

- **Interdisciplinary Studies** is good preparation for graduate school in many disciplines including communication, education, business, and public administration. Maintain a strong grade point average to increase opportunities for admission into graduate programs.



- *Explore specializations within major and professional field. Select electives to enhance knowledge in area(s) of interest or find a minor that will add value.*
- *Develop strong written and verbal communication skills and excellent interpersonal skills. Gain experience with public speaking by joining Toastmasters.*
- *Get involved in campus activities and professional organizations. Learn to work well on a team and develop leadership skills.*
- *Build a network of contacts. Once in a position, find an experienced mentor.*