

Provost's Comprehensive Program Review Report

Institution: Middle Georgia State University
Academic Program Name: B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies
CIP Code: 240101
College or School: School of Arts & Letters
Department: Media, Culture, and the Arts

Date of Last Internal Review: 2017

Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement): N/A (no comments by Provost other than program meets requirements and will be retained.)

Current Date: 5/18/2022

Provost Response: Academic Affairs acknowledges the documented value of the B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies. It is a viable and valuable academic program that has responded appropriately to student demand for customizable academic programming. The innovation in interdisciplinary curriculum development and opportunity for authentic application of the discipline content are noted. Shifting enrollment trends are being monitored and appropriately responded to - including concentration enhancements. The program's demonstrable commitment to academic strategic planning, efficiencies, and innovation have yielded positive enrollment growth. The report also notes the program has worked with intentionality in advising, scheduling, and curriculum options to reduce the avg. credit hours to graduation.

Program Quality and Productivity Improvement Plan: Following a review of the Chairs Report, the IERB comments, and the Deans appraisal, the Office of the Provost concurs with the findings and supports the documented plan of action.

- Continue to have strong advising and review curriculum as needed to help with retention and progression.
- Attract students who want to be IDS majors because it is a flexible degree they can customize to their career goals while we continue to serve students who seek degree completion.
- Reach students who are fully online by expanding extracurricular activities in the online environment.

Categorical Summation

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

X Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

X 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 PARTIALLY MEETS Institution's Criteria and will be re-evaluated in _____.

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):

Provost or VPAA Signature:



Date:

6/1/2022

Comprehensive Program Review Report

Academic Program Name: BA Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS)

College or School: School of Arts & Letters

Department: Media, Culture, & the Arts

Date of Last Internal Review: 2017

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

Current Date: 1/12/2022

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 BA IDS is a quality academic program that serves multiple constituencies, serving both as a completion degree for adult learners who already hold collegiate credit and as a flexible but rigorous program of study for ambitious traditional students who want to design their own curricular pathways. The program is very low-cost and has solid productivity, and is thus quite viable for the future. The BA IDS program is especially critical to MGA's access mission, as it provides an efficient and economical pathway for completion of a collegiate degree.

An important note: Data related to the BA IDS has been muddied by evolving institutional processes. At one point, the BA in IDS was linked to the choice of "undecided" on MGA's application. This led to a brief surge in enrollment in 2019. Due to USG-led Momentum Year initiatives, the "undecided" option was soon taken off the MGA application. This led to a normalization (and decrease) in enrollment after 2020. Additionally, IDS is often used as a placeholder for post-baccalaureate and dual enrollment students. Inclusion of these transitory populations leads to higher enrollments without the expected number of graduates.

The BA IDS has a stable number of graduates in line with the true number of enrolled students. The program's increasing health is reflected in the decrease in credit hours at the time of degree from 146.84 hours in AY 2016/2017 to 127.29 hours in AY 2021-2022.

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:

Dean of Graduate Studies Signature (when applicable):

Date:

IERB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Date Reviewed: 3/4/2022

Program Reviewed: BA Interdisciplinary Studies

<p>Contextual Notes: Summarize any demographic or environmental factors described in the introduction that might significantly impact assessment of the program</p> <p>Pandemic has affected enrollment.</p>

Area of Focus	Exemplary Area	Satisfactory Area	Area of Concern	No Evidence	Notes
<p>Enrollment</p>	<p><i>This program has significantly positive enrollment trends and robust credit hour production</i></p>	<p><i>This program has stable or moderately positive enrollment trends and healthy credit hour production</i></p>	<p><i>This program has negative enrollment trends and weak credit hour production</i></p>		<p>The enrollment fluctuates, but still a strong enrollment. The pandemic may have affected it.</p>
<p>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></p>	<p><i>Three year rolling average greatly exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred</i></p>	<p><i>Three year rolling average meets or exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred</i></p>	<p><i>Three year rolling average does not meet USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred; the program is "low performing" by USG definition</i></p>		<p>Relatively stable graduation rate over the past 5 years.</p>

IERB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Program Strengths of Note:

This degree is offered on all campuses with 9 concentrations. During the pandemic, the department underwent a thorough program revision to help with student retention. They are doing a good job meeting their mission statement for both SOAL and MCA.

Areas of Concern:

There are no areas of concern.

Other Comments:

Well written report!



Comprehensive Program Review

FY 2021 – 2022

Institution: Middle Georgia State University

Academic Program: B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies

School: School of Arts and Letters

Department: Media, Culture, and the Arts

CIP Code: 240101

Date of Last Internal Review: Spring 2017

Faculty Completing Report: Sabrina Wengier

Current Date: 1/12/2022

5 Year Enrollment by Campus and Graduation Trends

Enrollment

Campus	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	5 YR Growth	Fall 2017 compared to Fall 2021 only
Macon	31	88	110	88	51	13.25%	65%
Cochran	7	87	55	31	9	6.48%	29%
Warner Robins	2	18	21	21	6		
Dublin	5	14	12	12	2		
Eastman		2					
Online	7	16	65	100	99	93.93%	1314%
Off Campus			1		3		
Total	52	225	264	252	170	34.47%	227%

Graduates

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

FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	5 YR Growth	FY17 compared to FY21 only
19	13	14	21	12	-10.85%	-37%

Program Purpose and Mission

- Mission: “to graduate students who can communicate effectively, adapt well to change, demonstrate cultural understanding, and apply creative solutions to complicated problems.”

Alignment of Program Mission with Department, School, and Institutional Mission

- Institutional Mission: “Middle Georgia State University educates and graduates inspired, lifelong learners whose scholarship and careers enhance the region through professional leadership, innovative partnerships, and community engagement.”
- School of Arts and Letters (SOAL): “Our mission is to provide broad access to arts and humanities education that promotes creativity, elevates culture, encourages the pursuit of happiness, and prepares intellectually agile citizens to serve our communities and the creative economy of Georgia.”
- Department of Media, Culture and the Arts (MCA): “to build on a solid foundation in the liberal arts to guide students toward their academic goals and prepare them for a global, culturally diverse society. MCA coursework develops student expertise in the visual arts and music; in creative, digital, and professional writing; in culture, gender, and media studies; and in modern language.”

The Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) program fits naturally with the mission of the institution, the School of Arts and Letters and the MCA Department. IDS and humanities classes center on cross-cultural understanding, critical thinking, oral and written communication skills, and creative thinking.

Program Age, Tracks, Concentrations

- The B.A. in IDS has been in effect since 2009 at Macon State College.
- The program currently offers 9 concentrations: single discipline (student choice); liberal arts, media and communication, education (restricted to students transferring in enough upper-level education classes); business; health and human services, arts, social sciences, and STEM.

Accreditation information/status

There is no accrediting body for interdisciplinary studies.

Methods of Delivery

IDS and HUMN classes housed in SOAL are offered face-to-face, hybrid, and fully online.

Changes since last review:

- For a short period of time, the BA in IDS was linked to the choice of “undecided” on MGA’s application. This led to a brief surge in enrollment in 2019. Due to USG-led Momentum Year initiatives, the “undecided” option was soon taken off the MGA application. This led to a normalization (and decrease) in enrollment after 2020.
- Two major factors have led to decreases in enrollment in subsequent terms:
 - Following Momentum Year principles, IDS advisors have been proactively guiding IDS majors who are truly “undecided” to choose other, more appropriate and permanent majors.
 - The School of Education and Behavioral Sciences modified their BS in IDS by removing the STEM requirements that differentiated their BS from SoAL’s BA. This has led to confusion and frankly has been an enrollment drain on the BA IDS program.
- Although it depends on the students’ choice of concentration, IDS students are able to complete their curriculum fully online.
- New classes: three new IDS praxis courses have been created since 2017:IDS 4060 Madness, Literature, and Culture; IDS 4070 Organizations, Technology, and Culture, and IDS 4080 Sports, Media, and Culture. The repertoire of HUMN 3999 Special Topics in the Humanities has also been expanded and those changes reflect students’ interest and faculty expertise.
- IDS underwent a thorough program revision in 2020 to help IDS students with retention and progression to graduation:
 - Area F: HUMN 2155 and 2156 were added as options in addition to HUMN 2151.
 - The requirement to have 15 hours of 4000-level classes was removed. Students need 39 hours of 3000- or 4000-level classes.
 - Concentration choices were expanded and now allow for a variety of course prefixes to be included in each concentration (for instance, a Liberal Arts concentration allows students to use IDS, English, history, Spanish, French, and Creative Writing classes).
- Update of IDS rubrics: addition of projects as possible forms of assessment to reflect the multimedia aspect of assignments in praxis courses.

Benchmark of Progress

- **Credit hours at graduation:** the program has been steadily decreasing the number of credit hours at graduation since 2017. Strong advising and curricular changes that have eased

credit transfers from other MGA degrees and from other institutions account for the decrease.

AY 2016-2017	146.84
AY 2017-2018	142.60
AY 2018-2019	137.44
AY 2019-2020	139.02
AY 2020-2021	141.04
AY 2021-2022	127.29
Grand Total	139.64

- **Graduates:** The program has had a steady number of graduates over time. The number of degrees conferred dropped in 2021 as a result of pandemic enrollment drops.
- **Enrollment:** Enrollment has been steadily growing in Macon and Cochran while it has dramatically increased online with a 5-year growth of 93%.
- **Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):** SLOs are regularly met and a curriculum committee meets yearly to devise student learning initiatives as needed. For instance, in 2020, an SLI targeted SLO1 “Students will demonstrate effective and oral communication skills” as a result of the program not meeting its benchmark. Instructors now scaffold assignments leading to the oral presentation and in 2021, the success rate for this SLO increased from 67% to 88.46%.
- **Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):** There is notable consistency in meeting SLO benchmarks between Macon, Cochran, and online.

Plans for Action

- Continue to have strong advising and review curriculum as needed to help with retention and progression.
- Attract students who want to be IDS majors because it is a flexible degree they can customize to their career goals while we continue to serve students who seek degree completion.
- Reach students who are fully online by expanding extracurricular activities in the online environment.

Shifting Trends and Market Forces that May Impact Program Demand

- Market demands for graduates who can make connections and integrate modes of inquiry from several disciplines are becoming more common (<https://issues.org/the-world-needs-students-with-interdisciplinary-education/>; <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24988/the-integration-of-the-humanities-and-arts-with-sciences-engineering-and-medicine-in-higher-education>)
- Cross-cultural competence and understanding, a strong focus of the IDS degree, is a high-demand skill in the job market (<https://smallbusiness.chron.com/culture-awareness-workplace-737.html>; <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2017/05/03/the-future-of->

[jobs-and-jobs-training/;](#)

<https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/html/g1375/build/g1375.htm>)