



MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

For more information:
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Bachelor of Arts in
Interdisciplinary Studies: With a focus on Health and Human Services

The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies: With a focus on Health and Human Services is a degree completion program specifically designed for the adult learner seeking an accelerated, non-traditional pathway. This program provides students with a broad based interdisciplinary education focusing on individuals who seek a career in a wide variety of professional settings in healthcare, human services, social services, and related fields. Students graduating with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies will demonstrate advanced skills in critical thinking, research, writing, and oral presentation. Graduates will be able to apply interdisciplinary methods, approaches, and insights to the analysis of a given theme or issue, and to the development of creative solutions to complex problems.

The Interdisciplinary Studies: With a focus on Health and Human Services program is designed for those with work experience and an Associate's Degree (45 – 75 transfer credits). The program is a cohort model for the adult learner who is managing work and family demands. In completing this degree, students will be prepared to advance their careers in a wide range of occupations and industries and to proceed to graduate-level studies.

Table with 2 columns: Anticipated Program of Study, Credits. Rows include Transfer Credits (60*), Prior Learning Portfolio (15**), Proposed Courses (IDST 299, IDST 360, POSC 340, IDST 360, BIOL 195, PSYC 355, ENGL 395, PSYC 332, PSYC 495, SOWK 443, CCAP 300, PHIL 385, SOCI 331, IDST 360, IDST 401), and Total Credits (120).

*Transfer Credits must satisfy MCLA's core curriculum.
** This total may vary depending upon how much work/life experience a student brings into the program. Please note that MCLA reserves the right to unilaterally add, withdraw, or revise any course offering in the above mentioned program of study including policies, provisions, requirements, and fees.



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Program Details:

Location:	MCLA Pittsfield at 66 Allen Street, Pittsfield, MA
Schedule:	Rolling admission. Classes will be held once a week for 4-hour sessions (5:00 – 9:00PM) Courses will be 6-7 weeks in duration. Classes will include between-class work, including online learning applications.
Load:	Students will carry one course during each 6-7 week period. Upon completion of each 6-7 week period, students will immediately begin the next course. Most semesters, students will carry six credits.
Completion:	Students are expected to complete this degree program in just over two years. Students beginning in January 2019, can anticipate to graduate in May 2021.
Expectations:	Students are expected to attend every class meeting. In order to meet contact hour requirements, all classes will have online components. Students must have access to current technology, including a personal computer. Assignments will include a blend of individual and group work both within and outside of class time. Activities will include reading, writing, discussion, group projects, case studies, quizzes/tests, and application of course concepts.
Cost:	Each course (3 credits) at \$1,055.00*. Approximately every sixteen weeks, students will be billed for 6 credits for a total of \$2,110.00*. Prior learning credits (up to 30) will be billed at \$100 per credit. Students should expect additional text book costs (approximated at \$100 per course).
Financial Aid:	Financial aid counseling is available on the MCLA website at www.mcla.edu/financialaid . Students enrolling in 9 credits or more will need to verify proof of health insurance.
To apply:	Visit www.mcla.edu/transfer

For more information:

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Proposed Program Schedule:

Spring 2019

IDST 299 Learning in Context
ISDT 360 Cross Cultural Perspectives in Health Care

Summer 2019

POSC 340 Inequality and Social Policy
IDST 360 Health and Wellness in an Aging Society

Fall 2019

BIOL 195 Nutrition for Healthy Living
PSYC 335 Human Sexuality
ENGL 395 Experiential Credit Portfolio Preparation and Writing

Spring 2020

PSYC 332 Drugs and Human Behavior
PSYC 495 Issues in Mental Health

Summer 2020

SOWK 443 Casework with Couples and Families
CCAP 300 Tier III Capstone Seminar

Fall 2020

PHIL 385 Medical Ethics
SOC1 331 Methods of Social Research

Spring 2021

IDST 360 Management and Administration of Health Care
IDST 401 Senior Seminar

Projected Graduation in May 2021

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Course Descriptions:

IDST 299 Learning in Context

Provides a foundational introduction to adult learning as a context for students entering college. Both theory and practice are part of examining the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to both succeed as a learner and transfer that new knowledge into the world. Group dynamics, individual learning styles, collaborative learning, and reflective inquiry are all part of this interactive course.

IDST 360 Cross Cultural Perspectives in Health Care

Provides a cross-cultural perspective on population health and health care in order to understand a complexity of structures, processes, and factors that shape a phenomenon of healthcare in the United States and other countries.

POSC 340 Inequality and Social Policy

Examines social welfare policies and programs from the New Deal to the present analyzing their economic, cultural, historic and political roots. Emphasis on selected issues such as poverty and inequality, healthcare, abuse and neglect, daycare and parental leave. Examines social welfare policies as expressions of American values and political processes and compares American programs to those of other industrialized countries. Special attention paid to the experience of social program recipients.

IDST 360 Health and Wellness in an Aging Society

Provides an overview of issues related to health and aging at the personal and societal levels. Discusses myths and stereotypes of aging and the concept of successful aging. Examines life expectancy, chronic disease, and their impact on an aging society.

BIOL 195 Nutrition for Healthy Living

Introduces students to the importance of diet for present and future good health. Examines the importance of carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins and minerals, and their interactions. In addition, the course explores topics such as label-reading, diets, dietary analysis and other issues of current interest.

PSYC 355 Human Sexuality

Examines the field of human sexuality from psychological, biological and sociological perspectives. In covering a wide range of contemporary topics, emphasis is on empirical, verifiable scientific information.

ENGL 395 Experiential Credit Portfolio Preparation and Writing

Provides students with help in completing a portfolio for experiential credit. Includes a rigorous essay-writing component.



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Course Descriptions (continued):

PSYC 332 Drugs and Human Behavior

Examines the use and abuse of drugs from biological, psychological and cultural points of view. Addresses contemporary efforts in education, prevention and treatment of abuse..

PSYC 495 Issues in Mental Health

This course will explore issues in mental health with an emphasis on prevention and treatment. A variety of categories of mental illness will be discussed, as well as, ways to foster mental wellness. Interventions for assisting individuals and families with mental health concerns and available community resources will also be included in the course content.

SOWK 443 Casework with Couples and Families

Explores clinical practice with family problems. Examines the ways in which environmental, social, economic, psychological and institutional pressures help create and exacerbate family dysfunction, and the integration of this understanding into skilled intervention and families.

CCAP 300 Tier III Capstone Seminar

Challenges students to integrate knowledge from several disciplines, applying academic learning and critical thinking skills to modern-day issues. Encourages students to work with others and become engaged citizens in the context of today's world.

PHIL 385 Medical Ethics

Challenges students to understand, construct, and criticize both informal (natural language) and formal (categorical and propositional) arguments. The course considers in detail the very notion of argument, argument structure, and the criteria for constructing cogent arguments, and distinguishes arguments supported by evidence and reason from mere opinion and belief. Students will learn to apply these logical concepts in their writing, conversing, and reading.

SOCI 331 Methods of Social Research

Examines sociological methods commonly used in the study of the social world, as well as ethical and political issues related to the research process. Explores the various steps of research design, data collection (questionnaire construction, interviewing, and observation content analysis) and data analysis.

IDST 350 Management & Administration in Health Care

This course currently in development will explore complex and controversial topics in culture and society in regards to the management and administration of health care from the vantage point of multiple disciplines.

IDST 401 Senior Seminar Available to senior interdisciplinary studies majors, this seminar requires students to carry out supervised research projects within their areas of study and to share the progress and results of their research with seminar participants.

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