



MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

For more information:
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Bachelor of Arts in
Interdisciplinary Studies: With a focus on Leadership and Business

The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies is a degree completion program specifically designed for the adult learner seeking an accelerated, non-traditional pathway. This program provides the opportunity to combine real-world work and community service experience with leadership studies to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for assuming leadership positions in our increasingly interconnected world. 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 program is designed for those with work experience and an Associate’s Degree (45 – 64 transfer credits). The program is a cohort model designed 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.

Anticipated Program of Study		Credits
Transfer Credits		60*
Prior Learning Portfolio		15**
Proposed Courses		
BADM 361	Organizational Behavior	3
BADM 366	Team Facilitation	3
BADM 390	Managing Workplace Diversity	3
ENGL 395	Portfolio Workshop	3
ENGL 400	Intercultural Communication	3
IDST 200	Introduction to Leadership	3
IDST 360	The World at Work	3
IDST 540	Internship	3
IDST 299	Learning in Context	3
IDST 401	Senior Seminar	3
PHIL 322	Business Ethics	3
POSC 340	Inequality and Social Policy	3
SOCI 303	Social Movements	3
SOWK 355	Community Organization	3
CCAP 300	Service Leadership	3
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:	Projected: In Pittsfield, MA. Other locations, such as northern county, may be identified based on enrollment patterns.
Schedule:	Courses will begin in January 2017. 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 out-of-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 2017, can expect to graduate in May 2019.
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, ideally a laptop 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 15) 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 . All students 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 2017

IDST 299 Learning in Context
ISDT 200 Introduction to Leadership

Summer 2017

BADM 366 Team Facilitation
BADM 361 Organizational Behavior

Fall 2017

POSC 340 Inequality and Social Policy
SOCI 303 Social Movements

Spring 2018

ENGL 400 Intercultural Communication
BADM 390 Managing Workplace Diversity

Summer 2018

PHIL 322 Business Ethics
ENGL 395 Portfolio Workshop
SOWK 355 Community Organization

Fall 2018

IDST 350 The World at Work
PSYC 335 Organizational Psychology

Spring 2019

IDST 401 Senior Seminar
CCAP 300 Tier III Capstone Service Leadership

Projected Graduation in Spring 2019

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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 200 Introduction to Leadership

A description and comparison of major leadership theories along with current applications and case examples. Also examines issues of ethics, power, teams and women in leadership. Each student will be involved in a service/leadership and reflection experience throughout the semester which will develop their leadership skills, and identify the student's own leadership philosophy and style.

BADM 366 Team Facilitation

Develops an understanding of the processes and techniques of team-building and the interpersonal skills needed to become an effective facilitator. Students will engage in self-analysis that identifies their personal skills/abilities and their areas of strength/weakness. Students will be assigned to teams and operate as both a member/facilitator during the semester. They will learn how to deal with dysfunctional team members while developing interpersonal skills, enabling them to identify problems and work towards solutions.

BADM 361 Organizational Behavior

Explores the study of group behavior in various organizational settings through the study of organizational theories of structure, culture, motivation, communication, and group dynamics. Cases and/or group activities are used to illustrate the application of theory to actual organizational scenarios.

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.

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.

ENGL 400 Intercultural Communication

Studies in depth the role culture plays in the communication process in various world cultures. Examines the cultural differences in language, thought patterns, and non-verbal communication behaviors.



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Course Descriptions (continued):

SOCI 303 Social Movements

Introduces students to major social movements of the 20th Century in the U.S. and the variety of state responses to them. Examines political, social, economic conditions that gave rise to movements and the ways in which these movements have succeeded and failed. Explores why people join movements and the tactics they use to achieve movement goals. Additional focus on how art (poetry, literature, performance art, murals, photography) can function as a form of political protest.

SOWK 355 Community Organization

Explores community organization as a means of empowering citizens to make successful changes in their lives. Involves the study of community organization and participation in projects offering a chance to learn about community organization while doing it.

PHIL 322 Business Ethics

Examines the values of a business society and the dimension of decision making in business, with the aim of enabling the student to develop a meaningful set of values by which to live and contribute creatively in a business society.

BADM 390 Managing Workplace Diversity

Examines the roles of women and minorities from the 1600s to the present day to gain an understanding of why and how those roles have evolved. Integrates the changes in social, political, and economic conditions and value systems as they affect the ability of women and minorities to effectively function in social and work environments.

IDST 360 The World at Work

Explores complex and controversial topics in culture and society from the vantage point of at least two different disciplines (e.g. sociology, history, psychology, literature, cultural studies) and interdisciplinary perspectives.

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.

IDST 401 Senior Seminar

Available only 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.

IDST 540 Interdisciplinary Internship

Offers seniors field experience that actively and extensively draws upon the concepts, principles, and skills of at least two different disciplines. The internship includes a strong writing component in which the student interprets his/her field experience with reference to key ideas and themes of the relevant disciplines.