

COMMITTEE INTERDISCIPLINARY MAJOR, BA/BS

The Committee Interdisciplinary Major is an option for self-directed and highly motivated students whose academic interests go beyond the existing major programs at UWM.

Students interested in this major must have in mind a topic that connects ideas from more than one major and that cannot be addressed within an existing major. They should discuss this topic with a faculty member who has related research and/or teaching interests to determine whether the topic is truly interdisciplinary.

If the faculty member agrees to advise the student on their topic, the student and the faculty member will work together to identify two more faculty members to serve on the student's interdisciplinary committee. The student will also work with their faculty advisor to develop the major proposal and declare this major.

To access the Committee Interdisciplinary Major proposal form, the student should ask their L&S advisor or look on the Letters & Science academics page.

Past CIM topics have included Community Development, Ethical Issues and the Law, Pharmaceutical Sales and Promotion, Re-emergence of Eastern Europe, and Science and Health Communication.

Students completing the Committee Interdisciplinary Major must also complete all UWM General Education Requirements. They must also decide whether they will complete a BA or BS degree and fulfill all the requirements of the BA or BS in the College of Letters & Science.

Course of Study – Bachelor of Arts Degree

Complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science and with 36 of the 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses.

The College requires that students must complete in residence at UWM at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major. The College also requires that students complete at least 30 credits overall in residence at UWM. For additional residency and transfer credit limitations, see L&S Undergraduate Policies and Regulations (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/#policiesandregulationstext>).

Students are also required to complete University-wide General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#bachelorsdegreegeneraleducation>) and the specific L&S requirements listed below.

To complete a major, students must satisfy all the requirements of the major as stated in this catalog. Students who declare their majors within five years of entering the UW System as a degree candidate may satisfy the requirements outlined in any catalog issued since the time they entered. Credits used to satisfy the major also may be used to satisfy other degree requirements.

University General Education Requirements (GER)

Code	Title	Credits
Oral and Written Communication		
<i>Part A</i>		
Achieve a grade of C or better in the following course:		
ENGLISH 102	College Writing and Research (or equivalent)	
<i>Part B</i>		
Course designated as OWC-B; may be completed through a major-specific course requirement		
Quantitative Literacy		
<i>Part A</i>		
Earn at least 3 credits with a grade of C or higher in one of the following courses or an equivalent course, or achieve a placement code of at least 30 on the mathematics placement test (or other appropriate test, as determined by the Mathematical Sciences Department)		
MATH 102	Mathematical Literacy for College Students II	
MATH 103	Contemporary Applications of Mathematics	
MATH 105	Introduction to College Algebra	
MATH 108	Algebraic Literacy II	
MATH 111	Introduction to Logic - Critical Reasoning ¹	
or PHILOS 111	Introduction to Logic - Critical Reasoning	
MATH 116	College Algebra	
Or equivalent course		
<i>Part B</i>		
Course designated as QL-B; may be completed through a major-specific course requirement		
Arts		
Select 3 credits		3
Humanities		
Select 6 credits		6
Social Sciences		
Select 6 credits		6
Natural Sciences		
Select 6 credits (at least two courses including one lab)		6
UWM Foreign Language Requirement		
Complete Foreign Language Requirement through:		
Two years (high school) of a single foreign language		
Two semesters (college) of a single foreign language		
Or equivalent		
UWM Cultural Diversity Requirement		
One course from the Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences must also satisfy UWM's Cultural Diversity requirement		

¹ Math 111 and Philosophy 111 are jointly offered and count as repeats of one another. Students cannot receive credit for both courses.

College of Letters & Science Requirements

The degree requirements in the College of Letters and Science build on the University General Education Requirements to provide a broad base

of knowledge as well as an array of skills cited by employers as critical to professional success: critical thinking, problem solving, oral and written communication, ability to work well with others, and adaptability to change.

For the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), you must complete the UWM General Education Requirements as well as these L&S requirements: the International requirement, the Breadth requirement, and the Research requirement. The International requirement develops your potential for cross-cultural understanding in a globalizing world. The Breadth requirement ensures that you take classes in a wide variety of subjects, across humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. The Research requirement calls for you to build your critical thinking and oral and written communication skills through conducting an independent research project, usually in your major.

For the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) you will also complete the Language other than English requirement, to further develop your understanding of cultures through language.

I. Total Credits and Upper-Division Courses Requirement

Students must complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science and with 36 of the 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses.

II. Language other than English Requirement

Students doing the BA must fulfill the language other than English requirement by either successfully completing the fourth semester of university work or equivalent in one language other than English, or by successfully completing the second semester of university work or equivalent in two languages other than English (including all world languages and American Sign Language).

Language courses (including American Sign Language) other than English taken in high school may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement. One year of high school language equates to one semester of college work. Proficiency tests approved by the Languages faculty may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement.

Completion of the L&S Language Requirement also satisfies the university-wide Language other than English GER, but not vice versa.

III. International Requirement

To meet the International Requirement, students must successfully complete some three course (minimum 9 credits) combination of

1. language other than English (*not* including American Sign Language) at 3rd semester level or above, *and/or*
2. non-language courses with L&S approved international content (see Courses Approved for the L&S International Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-international-requirement/>) for course options).

IV. Breadth Requirement

In addition to completing the University General Education Requirements, L&S students must complete the Breadth requirement.

The L&S Breadth requirement calls for 6 credits each in L&S courses designated L&S Humanities, L&S Natural Sciences, and L&S Social Sciences breadth. One of the L&S Natural Science breadth courses must be a laboratory or fieldwork course. These courses must be beyond and in addition to courses in those areas used to satisfy General Education Requirements.

Please refer to the list of Courses Approved for the L&S Breadth Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/breadth-requirement-course-list/>).

V. The Major

The College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the major attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted, including any transfer work. Individual departments or programs may require higher GPAs for graduation. Some departmental majors require courses from other departments. Contact your major department for information on whether those credits will count as part of the major GPA. The College requires that students must complete in residence at UWM at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major.

Research Requirement

Within their majors, students must complete a research experience approved by the L&S faculty. A list of courses satisfying the research requirement in each major can be found here (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-research-requirement/>).

VI. The Minor

Students are encouraged to consider completing a minor, but it is not required. To complete a minor, the College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the minor attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all minor credits attempted, including any transfer work. The minor must contain at least 9 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 and above) courses.

Course of Study – Bachelor of Science Degree

Complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science and with 36 of the 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses and 30 of those 36 credits in designated L&S Advanced Natural Science courses (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-advanced-natural-science/>).

The College requires that students complete in residence at UWM at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major. The College also requires that students complete at least 30 credits overall in residence at UWM. For additional residency and transfer credit limitations, see L&S Undergraduate Policies and Regulations (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/#policiesandregulationstext>).

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University General Education Requirements (GER)

Code	Title	Credits
Oral and Written Communication		

Part A

Achieve a grade of C or better in the following course:

ENGLISH 102	College Writing and Research (or equivalent)
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Part B

Course designated as OWC-B; may be completed through a major-specific course requirement

Quantitative Literacy**Part A**

Earn at least 3 credits with a grade of C or higher in one of the following courses or an equivalent course, or achieve a placement code of at least 30 on the mathematics placement test (or other appropriate test, as determined by the Mathematical Sciences Department)

MATH 102	Mathematical Literacy for College Students II
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or PHILOS 111	Introduction to Logic - Critical Reasoning
MATH 116	College Algebra
Or equivalent course	

Part B

Course designated as QL-B; may be completed through a major-specific course requirement

Arts

Select 3 credits 3

Humanities

Select 6 credits 6

Social Sciences

Select 6 credits 6

Natural Sciences

Select 6 credits (at least two courses including one lab) 6

UWM Foreign Language Requirement

Complete Foreign Language Requirement through:

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For the Bachelor of Science (B.S.), you must complete the UWM General Education Requirements as well as these L&S requirements: the

International requirement, the Breadth requirement, and the Research requirement. The International requirement develops your potential for cross-cultural understanding in a globalizing world. The Breadth requirement ensures that you take classes in a wide variety of subjects, across humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. The Research requirement calls for you to build your critical thinking and oral and written communication skills through conducting an independent research project, usually in your major.

For the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) you will complete additional coursework in L&S Advanced Natural Science courses (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-advanced-natural-science/>).

I. Total Credits and Upper-Division Courses Requirement

Students must complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science and with 36 of the 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses.

II. L&S Advanced Natural Sciences Requirement

For the Bachelor of Science, students must complete 30 credits of the 36 credits in upper-division courses in designated L&S Advanced Natural Science courses (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-advanced-natural-science/>).

III. International Requirement

To meet the International Requirement, students must successfully complete some three course (minimum 9 credits) combination of

1. language other than English (*not* including American Sign Language) at 3rd semester level or above, *and/or*
2. non-language courses with L&S approved international content (see Courses Approved for the L&S International Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-international-requirement/>) for course options).

IV. Breadth Requirement

In addition to completing the University General Education Requirements, L&S students must complete the Breadth requirement.

The L&S Breadth requirement calls for 6 credits each in L&S courses designated L&S Humanities, L&S Natural Sciences, and L&S Social Sciences breadth. One of the L&S Natural Science breadth courses must be a laboratory or fieldwork course. These courses must be beyond and in addition to courses in those areas used to satisfy General Education Requirements.

Please refer to the list of Courses Approved for the L&S Breadth Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/breadth-requirement-course-list/>).

V. The Major

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Research Requirement

Within their majors, students must complete a research experience approved by the L&S faculty. A list of courses satisfying the research requirement in each major can be found here (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-research-requirement/>).

VI. The Minor

Students are encouraged to consider completing a minor, but it is not required. To complete a minor, the College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the minor attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all minor credits attempted, including any transfer work. The minor must contain at least 9 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 and above) courses.

Committee Interdisciplinary Major Requirements

The Committee Interdisciplinary Major (CIM) requires a minimum of 30 credits, of which at least 15 must be in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) Letters and Science courses taken in residence at UWM. The CIM must include coursework in at least two L&S academic units. All committee interdisciplinary majors must be approved by the major academic units involved. Most academic units outside the College may also be selected as part of the major. However, at least 18 credits in the major must be earned in Letters and Science courses. Non-L&S courses selected as part of a CIM will not count toward the 75 L&S credits required for the degree, but they will satisfy part of the 30 elective credits available to L&S students.

Students completing the Committee Interdisciplinary Major must complete all UWM General Education Requirements as well as the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Sciences in the College of Letters and Science.

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on all credits in the major taken at UWM and a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on all credits in the major taken at UWM plus any transfer credits.

To propose a CIM, students should first identify a topic that cannot be studied in depth in any existing major, and a faculty member ("faculty advisor") to advise them on this interdisciplinary topic. The student should write a proposed description of the major with its goals. Then the student will work with the faculty advisor to:

- Identify a title for the major;
- Finalize the description of the major;
- Select the courses that will be required for the major; and
- Identify two additional faculty from two or more academic units willing to serve on the student's major committee.

The student and faculty member will complete the online declaration of Committee Interdisciplinary Major form. The form must be signed by the student and the three committee members before going to the L&S Associate Dean of the division most relevant to the topic for approval.

Should the proposal be denied, the student and the committee chair will receive a written explanation of the denial. The proposal may be reworked and resubmitted. Students may appeal a denial to the L&S Academic Policies and Curriculum Committee.

In addition to the requirements above, students completing this degree must submit a portfolio containing the research paper from the course

taken to satisfy the L&S Research Requirement, and a reflection paper in which the student discusses those assignments in relation to their learning across the degree. The student may submit this portfolio at any time after declaring this degree; it is best to submit it before or at the same time as applying for graduation.

Eligibility to serve on student's major committee

The committee must be composed of three individuals from two or more academic units who are willing to function as the major oversight committee. At least two committee members must be from L&S. A member of the L&S faculty serves as committee chair and major advisor ("faculty advisor"). One committee member may be instructional academic staff, but at least two must be tenure-track faculty members. All committees must be approved by the L&S Associate Dean in the division most relevant to the major topic.

College of Letters and Science Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.