

Integrative Studies

The Integrative Studies major allows students to design their own interdisciplinary major in a way that integrates several fields and disciplines. Such a major is based on several things: Guilford College's emphasis on the interdisciplinary character of learning; the Quaker recognition of the unique gifts of each person; and the Quaker emphasis on the responsibility of each person in the search for truth. This major is not for everyone. It requires additional work by both the student and their faculty advisers and is suitable only for self-directed students who are actively involved in their education and able to work well on their own. A student must have a cumulative Guilford GPA of 3.25 or higher in order to apply to the program, and it is considered an honor to be accepted to the program.

Why Guilford College?

Consistently rated nationally by *Princeton Review*, *The Unofficial Unbiased Guide to the 328 Most Interesting Colleges*, as well as being one of the only 40 colleges in *Colleges that Change Lives* by Loren Pope, Guilford College strives to balance a liberal arts education with a solid preparation toward either advanced studies or a career.

What can a Guilford education offer you?

- An urban setting near other colleges & universities with an area student population of over 27,000 students
- A consortium agreement with University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro College, Bennett College, North Carolina A&T State University, Elon University and High Point University provides students with access to courses free of charge
- A college mission statement & core values based on, and consistent with, Quaker testimonies. Guilford's core values are: Community, Diversity, Equality, Excellence, Integrity, Justice & Stewardship.
- A challenging academic program which emphasizes not only academic tracks and the learning process, but also the interconnection between curricular and co-curricular pursuits
- A diverse student population providing a stimulating peer environment
- Excellent study abroad programs in China, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Scotland, Spain, and Wales

The academic program in Integrative Studies

The Bachelor of Arts degree is offered in Integrative Studies.

Required courses for the Integrative Studies major

Integrative studies majors complete at least 48 credit hours (usually 12 courses, equivalent to a major and a concentration) in courses that constitute a coherent field of study outside traditional departmental lines. If a proposed integrative studies program can be accomplished using existing majors and concentrations, it will not be accepted. At least 24 of the credits must be advanced courses (at the 300-400), including a two-semester culminating project during the final year that counts for eight credits. Students must earn a grade of C- or better in each of the courses in the major. An integrative studies major must also maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25 in order to remain in the program. If the cumulative GPA falls below 3.25, a student will be allowed one semester in which to regain a 3.25 cumulative GPA before being dismissed from the program.

The Curriculum Subcommittee of the Educational Policy Committee approves the student as a major by accepting the application. The Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator, with advice from the appropriate department chairs, approves a preliminary prospectus at the beginning of the student's next-to-last semester and a revised prospectus at the beginning of the final semester; and participates in the evaluation and approval of the culminating project along with the student's adviser and a consultant reader. The Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator works with the student's advisers in supporting and directing the student in the course of study.

It is very important for interested students to begin to consider this major as early as possible, through discussions with the Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator and potential faculty advisers. A student's application to the program must be completed and turned in to the Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator by the second week after midterm break of the second semester of their sophomore year, or five full-time semesters (or the equivalent) prior to their graduation date. Thus, it is not possible for transfer students to major in integrative studies unless they are able to spend at least six full-time semesters at Guilford. Under no circumstances will late applications be considered.

The full application packet is available from the Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator. The application includes:

- A statement articulating the nature and coherence of the field of study and why this program is necessary to achieve the student's goals; the rationale for the courses to be taken for the major, including the sequencing, depth, and coherence of the courses; a tentative proposal for the senior project and how it serves as an appropriate culmination for the major; the relationship between the field of study and Guilford's Five Academic Principles; and reflections on future possibilities in the field (e.g., career, graduate school).
- A program list of at least 12 courses (48 credits), distinguishing those taken and those anticipated.
- Strong recommendations from at least two faculty members from two different disciplines who agree to be the advisers. One adviser must commit to being the Project Adviser. A third letter of recommendation must come from an additional full-time faculty member who is not part of the advising team but who can speak to the student's academic qualifications for the program.
- Evidence that the student is likely to succeed in a self-designed, interdisciplinary major (e.g., students must have a minimum 3.0 grade-point average, have demonstrated ability to work independently, and have strong recommendations). Evidence of ability to work independently may include internships, independent studies or research projects, prior work experience, and the like.

This completed proposal is shown first to the student's advisers, who must approve it and consider it in their recommendations. The proposal is then sent to the Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator, who presents it to the Curriculum Subcommittee. The Curriculum Subcommittee may (and often does) ask the student to revise the proposal. The Curriculum Subcommittee then decides whether or not to accept the student into the major.

Culminating Project

In the first semester of the final year, the student begins work on the culminating project and continues until shortly before the end of the final semester. During the first of the two semesters of project work, all materials should be assembled and read, the project should be planned, and the first draft should be underway. The student submits an initial project prospectus and the endorsement of the Project Adviser to the Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator by the end of the third week of the penultimate semester. The Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator discusses the initial prospectus with the student, the Project Adviser, and the appropriate department chairs, and decides whether the senior project is an appropriate culmination for the major and is sufficiently interdisciplinary. The IDS Coordinator may ask for revisions or additions to the project before it is approved.

The Project Adviser, the Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator or their representative, and at least one consultant reader comprise the Evaluating Committee for the project. The consultant reader is someone whose expertise will aid in evaluating the project. He or she is selected by the student and the adviser with the IDS Coordinator's consent. Students are encouraged to decide on and gain approval for the Evaluating Committee by the end of the first semester of the project and seek approval of the revised prospectus from everyone on the Evaluating Committee. They also are encouraged to consult with all members of the Evaluating Committee during the final semester.

The student must submit the final version of the project at least two weeks before the last day of classes to the Evaluating Committee. The student then defends the project before the Evaluating Committee. The Committee will decide whether or not to approve the project as fulfilling the requirements of the integrative studies major. After discussing the project with the other members of the Evaluating Committee, the Project Adviser determines the project's grade.

Program Coordinator

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For additional information about Integrative Studies at Guilford College visit www.guilford.edu/academics

