What are interdisciplinary minors?

Interdisciplinary programs provide opportunities to learn and apply modes of inquiry essential to multiple interrelated disciplines. Special emphases are placed on writing fluency, an essential skill for success not only in college work but throughout life; on diversity and the study of foreign cultures, so that students gain an appreciation of the uniqueness of each such culture as reflected in its language and history as well as the many traditions that make up our multicultural heritage; and on an understanding of the forces, figures and events that shape our country and our world.

American Studies

American Studies is a field that explores American culture from a variety of perspectives. Scholars in American Studies often study questions that cannot be answered in a particular discipline.

Students can target their interests outside of their major through American Studies—if one is interested in art and literature, history and sociology, literature and history, for example, American Studies allows students to take courses that complement one another. The minor can accommodate even more specific interests such as the city, the Beats, museum studies, and so on.

Disability Studies

People with intellectual disabilities (mental retardation, chronic mental illness, chronic physical disabilities resulting from both congenital and acquired injuries and diseases, autistic spectrum disorders, etc.) are among the most under-represented and under-served populations in the United States today.

This minor will offer students a unique opportunity to develop a richer understanding of what it means to live with a disability in the context of contemporary American society. The minor is anchored by a foundation of courses in Psychology, English, and Sociology, and it also has a number of electives that allow students to seek the links between disabilities and other diverse and marginalized groups (e.g., women, minorities) and to incorporate multiple perspectives (historical, political, economic, ethical).

Gender Studies

Courses in Gender Studies are broadly formulated to examine how gender inequality affects the lives of both men and women and how social constructions of gender shape our lives. These courses examine the contributions that research on gender and feminist scholarship have made to our understanding of social institutions, human behavior, cultural expression and intellectual inquiry.

Students who minor in Gender Studies will develop their critical thinking and communication skills as they explore this exciting field by bringing together concepts from a variety of academic disciplines.

Journalism and Media Studies

Our interdisciplinary minor in Journalism and Media Studies is designed to provide students with an opportunity to explore the practice and theory of Journalism and Media Studies as it is being produced on the ground today. Today's rapidly changing media landscape of digitization, high-speed connectivity, and endless advancement in technology is redefining the relationship between media and its audience.

Our program prepares students to join the ranks of today's converged media with multi-skills media qualifications that will distinguish them in today's market. Students in the Journalism and Media Studies Program are going to engage in a well structured hands-on program that also relies on a well-established theoretical background. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of media platforms, spanning from online multimedia production to T.V.

Asian Studies

Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary minor that explores the complex interaction between artistic, cultural political, social, literary and religious spheres of life in Asia. Emphasis is placed not only on the diversity and achievements of Asian civilizations but also on the ways an understanding of Asia may shed new light on western cultural traditions.

Asian Studies encompasses the geographical areas of East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia and includes courses that address the Asian American experience. Asian Studies minor courses are based primarily in the humanities and social sciences; classes other than language courses are taught in English.

Work, Labor, and Society

Many aspects of our lives are influenced by what we do for work—how we spend our time, how much money we have, our lifestyle, and our leisure pursuits are all connected to our occupation. And work is not just an individual experience but is deeply embedded in our social structure. Our labor market reflects and reproduces many societal inequalities, and at the same time, workers united by their identity as workers have created lasting social change through the labor movement.

Other interdisciplinary minors

Arabic Studies, Comparative Arts, Cultural Studies, Environment and Society, Film Studies, German Studies, Italian Studies, Latin American Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, Technology, Society, and Human Values, and Theater Arts

For more information:

http://www.uml.edu/Catalog/Undergraduate/FAHSS/Interdisciplinary-Programs/Default.aspx