

## **Available Titles**

*While a topical studies major can cover any topic, these are the topic **titles** available from which to choose:*

African-American Studies  
Aging & Gerontology  
American Culture Studies  
Appalachian Studies  
Asian Studies  
Bio-Physics Studies  
Business Administration of Medicine  
Cognitive Science  
Community Development  
Comparative Literatures & Cultures  
Computational Data Systems Studies  
Environmental Geoscience  
Ecological Sciences  
Environmental Studies  
Film Studies  
Film, Television, & Digital Media  
Folklore & Mythology  
Forensic Science & Criminology  
Historical Preservation Studies  
Human Studies  
International Law  
International Studies  
Islamic Studies  
Japan Studies  
Judaic Studies  
Marine Science  
Medical Illustration Studies  
Middle Eastern Studies  
Military Studies  
Modern & Classical Language Studies  
National Security Policy  
Natural Resources Conservation & Mgt  
Studies in Neuroscience  
Personnel & Human Resource Studies

## *Titles (continued)*

Pharmaceutical Management  
Public Policy Studies  
Rural Health Studies  
Radiation Physics  
Religious Studies  
Social & Behavioral Science  
Statistical Analysis & Interpretation  
Urban & Regional Planning  
Women's Studies

## ***Have other questions?***

Call 859-257-8712

or email

Cindy Iten

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## ***Ready to jump in?***

Serious candidates who are ready to apply to the program should come to 257 Patterson Office Tower to make an appointment with the Topical Studies Coordinator.

### **Bring the following to your appointment:**

- ◆ A list of courses you have taken which are related to your topic.
- ◆ A list of related courses you would plan to take.
- ◆ The name of at least 1 potential faculty advisor. (Remember, acceptable candidates must be full-time regular faculty members - not graduate students or part-time instructors.)

# *What will your future hold?*



## *Don't leave it up to chance!*

**SHAPE YOUR FUTURE WITH  
AN ARTS & SCIENCES  
TOPICAL STUDIES MAJOR**

## *The College of Arts & Sciences Topical Studies Major*

The topical major is designed for students whose interests cut across traditional departmental and college lines and who wish to design their own programs of study.

Each program must have clearly-defined objectives which give focus and coherence to the courses chosen. The intent and range of these objectives vary with the individual. They might include programs that are specifically geared to some professional objective—e.g., preparation for the study of law or medicine, or they might encompass programs which seek to explore some topic in depth, using a variety of related University offerings—e.g. Public Policy. Often they are areas offering minors but not majors—e.g. Women's Studies

To complete the degree requirements the University must have sufficient course offerings in the area to be studied. These should be chosen with the help of a faculty advisor.

Topical Studies majors are growing in popularity around the country and provide graduates the unique opportunity to discuss their undergraduate studies in-depth with graduate schools and potential employers.

## *Requirements for Graduation with a Topical Major*

- ◆ A minimum of 30 hours to be completed upon acceptance into the topical studies program - hours earned in the semester of acceptance are applied.
- ◆ All University Studies Program requirements must be satisfied.
- ◆ All College of Arts & Sciences course and hour requirements must be satisfied.  
There are 3 *hour* requirements for any A&S degree. Both BA & BS degrees require 120 hours minimum earned hours and 90 hours of A&S coursework. BA degrees require 39 hours of 300+ level coursework and BS degrees require 60 hours of science and math coursework
- ◆ A Major Requirements Plan (MRP) lists those courses which the student and the advisor have selected to complete the area of study.  
The MRP must include:
  - ⌘ a total of 42 hours of courses at the 200+ level;
  - ⌘ at least 24 of the 42 hours must be in courses at or above the 300-levelThe MRP cannot include:
  - ⌘ any course taken electively as P/F
- ◆ During the senior year the student must complete a comprehensive paper (or, where suitable, a project), that serves to integrate the material studied in their field. The topic of the paper must be approved by the student's faculty advisor and the Associate Dean prior to the start of significant work on the paper. Students are encouraged to take departmental offerings of 395 (independent research) courses to begin work on this paper/project. The paper/project must be turned in to the Associate Dean for approval no later than:  
*April 1 for May graduation*  
*July 1 for August graduation*  
*November 15 for December graduation*  
The faculty advisor must approve the paper prior to these dates.

## *Frequently Asked Questions About the Topical Studies Major*

### **I've taken lots of classes - have I completed a topical studies major?**

*No - even if you've taken 42 hours that could be used toward a topic, you must complete 30 hours after you are accepted to the program.*

### **Do I have to take foreign language?**

*Yes. The topical studies major is only offered through the College of Arts & Sciences. Every degree offered (BA or BS) requires the completion of the college foreign language requirement.*

### **How do I find a faculty advisor?**

*The best place to start is with your previous instructors and then with the departmental web sites. Look for departments that offer the courses you're most interested in taking. Generally the specialties and/or research areas are listed on either the departmental site or professor's individual sites. Your faculty advisor must be a full-time regular faculty member*

### **How is topical studies different from other majors?**

*Basically, there are no predetermined courses. Unlike other majors which have pre-major or core requirements, the topical studies major requirements are completely up to you & your faculty advisor.*

### **Do the classes have to be in Arts & Sciences?**

*Not necessarily. To graduate with a degree from A&S, you must complete at least 90 "A&S" hours, but beyond this, your courses can come from any department or college on campus.*