
Topical Studies - B.A. / B.S.

College of
Arts and Sciences

Students who have multiple interests or interests which do not fall into departmental areas may select a topic for concentration instead of a departmental major. Topical Studies offers academic flexibility and allows students to cut across departmental and college lines in constructing meaningful and imaginative programs. Courses in several departments might be selected to pursue special interests – Asian studies, for instance. Other examples might be African American studies or human studies.

Each topical studies major is designed and directed by the student in consultation with a faculty advisor in the general area of study, and in consultation with the topical studies advisor in the A&S Advising Center and an Arts and Sciences Associate Dean.

Topical Studies is the only selective admission program in the College of Arts and Sciences. The student must have a cumulative UK grade-point standing of at least 2.5 to be accepted to Topical Studies. The specific requirements of the topical studies major are that the student must meet University and College requirements, must enroll in and complete at least 30 credit hours after formal admission, and complete the 42-hour major requirements (see preceding section entitled “Major Requirements”). Except for electives, all of the student’s work must be related to the topic. Additionally, in the senior year, the student must complete a comprehensive paper or project that serves to integrate his or her topical studies field. Frequently, it is advantageous to begin writing this paper or project in the context of an independent work course or a seminar, with the instructor’s approval. The paper or project proposal must be approved by a faculty advisor, an Arts and Sciences Associate Dean, and the Topical Studies advisor before significant work has begun on the project. Students must submit the final paper or project for review and approval **no later than eight weeks** before finals during the semester the student intends to graduate. The paper should be submitted to the Associate Dean **no later than six weeks** before the final exam week during the semester the student intends to graduate. Departmental honors for topical studies majors are determined by the Associate Dean and the Topical Studies advisor. To be eligible for departmental honors, a student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.6 and a final paper or project that has been judged to be outstanding.

For more information, contact the Arts and Sciences Topical Studies advisor in the A&S Advising Center (311 Patterson Office Tower); or visit the Topical Studies major Web site at: www.as.uky.edu/topical-studies