



# Interdisciplinary Degrees in the Liberal Arts



**PennState**  
World Campus

A world of possibilities.  
Online.

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“An education in the liberal arts promotes critical thinking, communication skills, ethical leadership, and engagement with a diverse world. Our interdisciplinary degree programs are designed for the adult learner. They offer an excellent liberal arts education and recognize the value of experiential learning with opportunities for internships.”

—**B. Richard Page, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and  
Associate Professor of German and Linguistics**



# Why a Degree in the Liberal Arts?

An education in the liberal arts can prepare you to think critically and communicate effectively in any business or organization. You can develop a stronger sense of social responsibility and hone your skills in reasoning and problem-solving, traits highly valued by employers in every field. The Penn State College of the Liberal Arts interdisciplinary degree programs, delivered online through Penn State World Campus, provide

a broad spectrum of opportunities to acquire knowledge and pursue your interest in such disciplines as history, law, math, and the social sciences. They offer excellent preparation for careers in business, teaching, journalism, law, and the arts. You can study at your own pace—at times and locations convenient for you—while you continue to work in your current job and begin to apply your new skills and knowledge almost immediately.





# Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies

You can customize the bachelor of arts to fit your area of interest. Our 120-credit online program focuses on developing your skills in communication and analysis along with your leadership abilities.

You will work closely with an adviser to design a program that creates intellectual depth in an area of study unique to your interests and aligns with the theoretical foundation of a liberal arts degree.



—Denise Z.,  
Bachelor of Arts in  
Multidisciplinary Studies

The goal of this degree is to provide a broad education that introduces you to methods of analysis used in the liberal arts disciplines. Additionally, it can prepare you for the complex social, cultural, and organizational issues you may face in most leadership positions.

## Who Should Apply?

This degree program is an excellent choice if you seek a well-rounded education and/or hope to bring real-world experience to your studies. Our students typically:

- › have not earned an undergraduate degree
- › may have previous college credit that they hope to apply toward a degree completion program
- › wish to customize a degree to fit their career goals

## Students Seek Careers in:

- › government agencies
- › for-profit organizations
- › education
- › health care
- › business

[worldcampus.psu.edu/mdsba](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/mdsba)



—Judge W., Associate in Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies

## Associate in Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies

The 60-credit online Associate in Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies program at Penn State is a highly customizable, student-designed major that allows you to use elective courses to enhance your learning experience.

The multidisciplinary studies associate degree program provides a general background compatible with various career opportunities. This degree may be acquired independently or can be used as a stepping-stone for one of the bachelor's degrees in the College of the Liberal Arts, if you apply and are accepted into the program.

[worldcampus.psu.edu/mdsaa](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/mdsaa)

# Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society

The 123-credit online Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society is a versatile degree program designed to provide you with a greater understanding of U.S. law and its role in political and social change.

Your studies will focus on the relationships between law, legal processes, human behavior, and legal and social institutions.

## As a student, you can:

- › improve research and legal writing skills
- › learn to critically analyze arguments
- › become skilled in logic and rhetoric
- › explore ethics and modern philosophies of law
- › examine historical and contemporary struggles of groups within our society
- › develop skills to manage and resolve conflict

## Who Should Apply?

This socio-legal studies program is ideal if you have an interest in law enforcement agencies, law offices, labor organizations, regulatory agencies, public policy, or social service agencies—or if you deal with legal topics in your small business or are preparing to go to law school.

## Students seek careers in:

- › business
- › public service
- › social services
- › legal administration
- › nonprofit organizations
- › law or graduate school

[worldcampus.psu.edu/lws](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/lws)

“I chose Penn State World Campus because it was an online platform from one of the most prestigious universities in the country. I wanted the opportunity to acquire a degree like the bachelor’s in law and society and be able to study from home.”

—Leo J., Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society



## Bachelor of Science in Integrated Social Sciences

Employers seek people who can innovate, create, synthesize information, develop systems, and apply theory to practice—and practice to theory. This 120-credit online interdisciplinary degree program can help you acquire these skills that are applicable across many professional fields and specializations. And if you need only a few credits to complete your bachelor's degree, or if you want to complete it with a particular focus on the social sciences, this program could be well-suited for you.

The course of study draws upon core social science disciplines, including anthropology, communication arts and sciences, economics, political science,

psychology, and sociology. The final capstone portfolio will show how you have integrated and synthesized major themes explored in the curriculum.

Upon completion of this program, you should be able to understand in-depth the interrelationships between the social sciences and use your knowledge to communicate effectively, think critically, and apply social science perspectives to society's problems. In addition, you should be able to formulate, debate, and articulate arguments about social phenomena as well as recognize and solve ethical dilemmas in social contexts.

[worldcampus.psu.edu/isc](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/isc)

# The Value of the Learning Portfolio

We realize that you will bring to our studies rich learning experiences. The interdisciplinary majors value the time you have spent in the military, the jobs you have held, the training programs you have completed, and the volunteer work you have done. LA 201W, the experiential learning portfolio course, provides you with the opportunity to document and

share these experiences. Upon completion of the course, you will have produced a portfolio that documents your prior learning experiences. Your portfolio could serve as a writing sample or be a part of an application for a job, graduate school, or professional school. In addition, you may decide to submit your portfolio for prior learning credit (PLA).

## A Military-Friendly University

We appreciate the sacrifices that our active-duty military personnel, veterans, and military dependents make. As a military or veteran student, you are eligible for services and benefits unique to members of the armed forces and their dependents. Through our commitment to increasing access to education for military personnel, veterans, and military family members, we have aligned

our online programs, student support services, policies, and procedures to address your unique needs. To help you understand and take advantage of these services, the Penn State World Campus Military Team can work with you to help you merge education goals with your military obligations and benefits.

**[worldcampus.psu.edu/military](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/military)**





# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why is Penn State World Campus the best choice for me?

### **Flexibility and convenience**

Penn State knows that adults need flexible and convenient learning options in order to continue meeting their professional and personal commitments. You can take courses when and where you please, earning your degree at your own pace. You can even fulfill the requirements for your learning portfolio in your own community setting.

### **Reputation**

Penn State is universally regarded as one of the finest educational institutions in the United States. Putting a Penn State degree or certificate on your résumé is a great way to broaden your career options and prove to current and potential employers that you are a well-educated professional.

## What types of student support are available?

As a distance education pioneer, Penn State has developed a nationally recognized support system for students who are geographically removed from campus. With our team of academic advisers, technical support experts, customer service representatives, and Penn State instructors, we'll help you get where you want to go successfully—through distance education.

## Can I obtain financial aid to pay for my courses?

Penn State realizes that one of the biggest challenges of returning to school is the cost. That's why our advisers have been trained to help you make the most of the financial aid options and opportunities available to you.

To obtain additional information, visit [worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid](https://worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid)

“For someone who was terrified of having to go to school online, I personally would prefer not to get my education any other way. It allows you a certain level of freedom where you can take care of your obligations, but at the same time, get your education at your own pace.”

—Allyson D., Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies

# Why Penn State?

## Online Delivery Experience— Penn State World Campus

In 1892, Penn State founded one of the nation's first correspondence courses. Over the years, our distance education options evolved to include technology-enhanced learning experiences, culminating in the foundation of Penn State World Campus in 1998. As a pioneer in distance learning, we have significant experience in understanding the needs of off-campus students.

## Collaboration

The degree programs, developed by Penn State's College of the Liberal Arts, are conveniently delivered online through Penn State World Campus. This cooperative effort helps to ensure a high-quality online learning experience for our students. The interactive environment provides you with multiple opportunities to share insights and reinforce what you are learning, replicating the face-to-face experience of a campus education.

## Committed Faculty and Staff

The programs' faculty are known for their exceptional credentials, research, and industry experience, which help them understand your academic needs and career interests.

## An Exceptional Student/Alumni Body

Whether you take our courses online or in a traditional classroom, as a "Penn Stater," you:

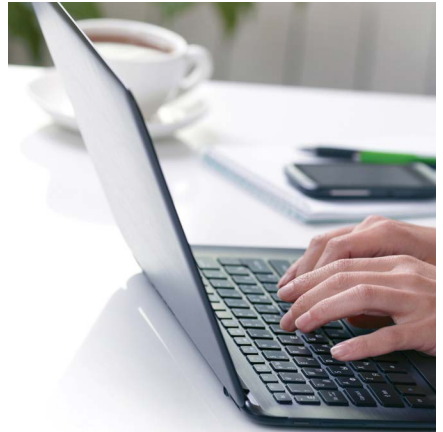
- › become part of an institution with more than 150 years of excellence in teaching, research, and service
- › join a global community of exceptional adult learners from all 50 states, more than 40 countries, and 7 continents
- › become part of a proud worldwide network of more than 700,000 alumni and, upon your graduation, have the opportunity to join the largest dues-paying alumni association in the world, with more than 173,000 members



# Begin Your Application Today

## Choose your program of interest:

- › Multidisciplinary Studies—  
bachelor's: [worldcampus.psu.edu/mdsba](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/mdsba)  
associate: [worldcampus.psu.edu/mdsaa](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/mdsaa)
- › Law and Society—  
[worldcampus.psu.edu/lws](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/lws)
- › Integrated Social Sciences—  
[worldcampus.psu.edu/isc](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/isc)
- › Click the “How to Apply” button.



## Application Materials

- › complete online application form and fee
- › official high school or GED transcripts
- › official transcript from each college or university attended
- › TOEFL or IELTS score, if applicable

For a more detailed description of the requirements and application procedure, visit: [worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions)

## Did You Know?

- › Penn State World Campus is consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as having the best online bachelor's programs.
- › Penn State credits and degrees earned online are identical to those earned on campus, with no mention of distance or online education.
- › Our online courses involve frequent interactions between students and with instructors.



# Contact Us

## Admissions Questions

[worldcampus@psu.edu](mailto:worldcampus@psu.edu)

Phone: 814-863-5386

[worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions)



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