

BIS Program

The Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program (BIS) is a university-wide degree program that enables students to create interdisciplinary specialties that prepare them for careers in a world that increasingly bridges academic disciplines. Students pursue two subject-area concentrations that represent academic interests they wish to integrate into a meaningful program. A four-course core offers students the intellectual tools to identify connections between their concentrations and engage in interdisciplinary problem solving.

The concentration in Public Administration and Public Management prepares students for citizenship, leadership, and careers in governmental and non-profit agencies. Students will learn the context and principles of public administration and how to apply these in a practitioner setting; the role of the public administrator in the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policy; and how to lead change and address ethical issues in public service. The program is designed for students interested in public service who want to:

- ::Deliver and manage public programs
- ::Reform welfare
- ::Provide public safety
- ::Preserve natural resources
- ::Improve the quality of life

- ::Build and bridge communities
- ::Strengthen democracy
- ::Analyze critical issues
- ::Lead change in public policy

Admissions

Pre-BIS Students must complete the Cyber Workshop and schedule an appointment with an academic advisor in Cross-college Advising Services prior to declaring regular major status. Cross-college Advising Services is located in the Academic Services Building Room #129. For more information on BIS and to complete the Cyber Workshop, visit the BIS website at: <http://www.asu.edu/duas/bis>.

Program Structure

The concentration in Public Administration and Public Management consists of 18 credit hours of coursework. Students take 12 hours of core classes and 6 hours of elective courses. The 6 hours of elective coursework may be selected from an approved list of elective classes, taken upon the recommendation of the department.

Core Courses

PAF 300 Public Management and Public Administration. Examines the context and development of the field of public administration and the role of the public manager, particularly in the management of strategic goals, human resources, budgets and finance, and delivery of services. Students will learn how to work within a public organization.

PAF 340 Public Management and Policy. Develops a conceptual, critical, and practical understanding of policy, the policy process, and policy analysis. Students will learn about the content, actors, and stages of the policy process.

PAF 420 Public Leadership. Examines key concepts, models, and strategies for leading public and non-profit organizations, with an emphasis on enhancing self-knowledge, skills, and abilities for effective leadership. Students will learn how to lead teams, assess leadership effectiveness, use power and influence, lead organizational change, manage conflict, and lead with integrity.

PAF 460 Public Service Ethics. Examines the role, values, and issues of public management in the context of democracy, citizen participation, power structures, and professional codes of conduct, with an emphasis on developing skill in critical and ethical reasoning and decision making.

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