



TWO DEGREES, ONE PATH

TRANSFER PATHWAY GUIDE 2025-2026

Associate in Arts to
Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

Overview

Completion of the following curriculum will satisfy the requirements for the Associate in Arts (AA) at a Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) institution and leads to the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Interdisciplinary Studies at Northern Kentucky University (NKU).

Applying to the KCTCS2NKU Program

Students can apply to participate in the pathway program by completing the online application on the NKU transfer webpage. Students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours at a KCTCS institution, enrolled in an associate degree program, plan to transfer to NKU, and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA at their KCTCS institution.

Degree Requirements for KCTCS

1) Completion of minimum 60 credit hours, 2) minimum cumulative GPA 2.0, 3) minimum of 15 credit hours earned at the institution awarding the degree, 4) demonstration of digital literacy, and 5) college success requirement.

Admission Requirements to NKU

Students completing an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher will be accepted into NKU.

This major can be completed face-to-face or online. If completed fully online, courses are offered primarily in seven-week formats. Tuition for online accelerated programs differs from face-to-face tuition. Scholarship pricing is available to KCTCS students who choose to enroll in the fully online program. The General Studies Track is available only in the accelerated online format and is open to students with at least 60 credit hours. Visit our website for more information about the [Interdisciplinary Studies Accelerated Online program](#). Additional information is also available in our [Student Handbook](#) or the online [flipbook for BAIS](#).

Degree Requirements for NKU

To earn a bachelor's degree at NKU, students must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours with at least 45 credit hours numbered 300 and above. In addition, at least 25% of the credit hours required for the degree and the last 30 credit hours must be completed at NKU. Students must have an overall GPA of 2.0 and meet all prerequisites for courses and requirements for the major.

Degree requirements for a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies:

- 1) Student must earn a minimum average GPA 2.0 across all major coursework
- 2) Student must earn at least a C- in each course for any minor or area of specialty, and a 2.0 (C average) in each minor or area of specialty. Some minors require higher GPAs/grade minimums. The higher standard applies.)
- 3) Student must complete minors or areas of specialty in three different academic programs.
- 4) At least one content area must be chosen from the College of Arts and Sciences.
- 5) Student must complete the introductory experience, IST 185, and the capstone experiences, (IST 397 & IST 497).
- 6) No additional minor or area of specialty is required beyond the three used to complete the degree requirements.
- 7) No course can count in more than one area of specialty or minor.

Degree requirements for a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies – General Studies Track:

- 1) Student must earn a minimum average GPA 2.0 across all major coursework.
- 2) Student must complete an area of specialty.
- 3) Student must earn at least a C- in each course in the area of specialty, and a 2.0 (C average) in the area of specialty.
- 4) Student must complete IST 185, IST 397, and one capstone course in any discipline (can be IST 497).
- 5) No additional minor or area of specialty is required.

Students within this pathway are **strongly** encouraged to work closely with their assigned NKU advisor to determine their areas of specialty and to determine the best classes to take at KCTCS to facilitate a smooth transfer into those areas of specialty.

General Transfer Information

Students must complete the online application to NKU. There is no application fee for students who are transferring from a KCTCS institution.

KCTCS Scholars Award: Students who are KY residents transferring directly from a KCTCS institution with at least 36 hours from that institution and minimum GPA of 3.0, were never enrolled as a degree-seeking student at NKU, and will be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours both fall and spring semester are eligible for a limited number of \$2,500 annual scholarships (\$1,250 per fall and spring). Students must gain admission to NKU by June 15 for fall and November 1 for spring to be eligible for a possible scholarship. Online accelerated programs are not eligible for the KCTCS Scholars Award.

KCTCS AA TO NKU BA IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES CHECKLIST

Kentucky Community and Technical College System Institution

Category 1: KCTCS General Education Core Requirements

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
ENG 101	Writing I (WC)	3	ENG 101	
ENG 102	Writing II (WC)	3	ENG 102	
TBS XXX	Oral Communication (OC)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH) – Heritage	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH) – Humanities	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (SB)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (SB)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Natural Science Course with Lab (SL)	3-4	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Quantitative Reasoning Course (QR)	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Quantitative Reasoning (QR) or Natural Science (NS) Course	3		
	Subtotal General Education Core Courses	33-34		

TBS XXX means to be selected by KCTCS student.

TBD XXX means to be determined by NKU based on course selected.

For Social and Behavioral Sciences courses, two disciplines must be represented and different from those in the Arts and Humanities category. For students in the Gateway2NKU, MCTC2NKU and Jefferson2NKU programs, it is recommended that they complete IST 185 at NKU as one of the Social & Behavioral requirements.

Category 2: KCTCS AA Requirements

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH) or Social & Behavioral Science (SB) or Foreign Language Course	3	TBD XXX	
TBS XXX	Arts & Humanities (AH) or Social & Behavioral Science (SB) or Foreign Language Course	3	TBD XXX	
	Subtotal AA Requirement Courses	6		

Category 3: KCTCS Electives

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
	Digital Literacy	0-3		
	First-Year Experience	0-3		
TBS XXX	Electives	15-21	TBD XXX	

KCTCS Course	Course or Category	Credits	NKU Course	Completed
	Subtotal Elective Courses	21		
	Total Associate Degree Hours	60-61		

Northern Kentucky University

Category 4: NKU Major Requirements for the BA in Interdisciplinary Studies

NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
IST 185	Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies	3		
IST 397	Interdisciplinary Inquiry	3		
	Integrated Studies Track			
	Choose first area of specialty from Arts and Sciences (plus pre-requisites as needed)	12+		
	Choose second area of specialty (plus pre-requisites, as needed)	12+		
	Choose third area of specialty (plus pre-requisites, as needed)	12+		
IST 497	Capstone in Interdisciplinary Studies	3		
	General Studies Track			
	Choose one area of specialty (plus pre-requisites, as needed)	12+		
TBS XXX	Choose one capstone course in any discipline (can be IST 497)	3		
	Total Major Credit Hours Still Needed (some credits can be completed at KCTCS)	21-45		

Category 5: Additional Requirements at NKU

NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
	Subtotal Prerequisite & Elective Credit Hours (may need some credit hours at the 300/400 level)	14-39		
	Total Baccalaureate Degree Credit Hours	120		

Integrated Studies Track

Students seeking the Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (BAIS) – Integrated Studies Track must complete minors or areas of specialty in three disciplinary or interdisciplinary programs. The requirements for a minor in any program are listed in the relevant department's pages in the catalog. An area of specialty is defined as 12 credit hours at the 300 level or above in any disciplinary or

interdisciplinary program (major or minor). The three areas of study must include at least one area from the College of Arts and Sciences.

We also require IST 185, an introduction to Interdisciplinary studies, and IST 497, the capstone course, which involves both a portfolio of artifacts and an Interdisciplinary final project.

Through the KCTCS2NKU program a student can attain an Associate's degree from a KCTCS institution and then transfer to NKU to complete a Bachelor's degree. In the Interdisciplinary Studies program students work with advisors to design their own course of study from across the curriculum and integrate what they learn in a capstone project to find coherence, meaning and value in a personal area of interest. Below are just a few examples of pathways that appeal to many students.

- ***I would be interested in a career as a paralegal, legal assistant or legal administrator.*** A sample plan of study includes a specialty in Professional Writing, and areas of specialty in Communication Studies and Philosophy. Other programs of study include History, Political Science, International Studies, English, Anthropology, Law, and Human Resource Management.
- ***I want a career in arts management.*** A sample plan of study includes specialty areas in one or more of the arts, Public Relations, and Art History. Other programs to consider include English, Professional Writing, History, and Education.
- ***I am interested in environmental issues.*** A sample plan of study includes an area of specialty in Environmental Studies, an area of specialty in Geography, and an area of specialty in Sociology. Other programs to consider include Biology, Chemistry, English, Geology, Environmental Education, and Social Justice.
- ***I want to work with family services.*** A sample plan of study includes areas of specialty in Human Services and Addiction, Psychology, and Sociology. Other programs to consider include Social Work, Education, Women's and Gender Studies, Health Education, Health Science, Black Studies, and Social Justice.
- ***I want to be involved in hospitality, event planning and promotion.*** A sample plan of study includes areas of specialty in Psychology, Public Relations, and Communication Studies. Other programs to consider include Theater, Human Resource Management, Sociology, Organizational Leadership, Professional Writing, and Media Informatics.
- ***I want to write and produce media about popular culture.*** A sample plan of study includes areas of specialty in Cinema Studies, Journalism, and Popular Culture Studies. Other programs to consider include Electronic Media Broadcasting, Anthropology, Music, Art History, and English.

Arts Management. What kinds of careers are available? Operas, symphonies, dance companies, record labels, museums, public radio or television, event promoters, marketing and media relations.
Prerequisites: TAR 160 (KCTCS TA 260, THA 150, or THA 260), JOU 110 or EMB 100 (KCTCS JOU 101, CMS 141, COM 249, COM 250, JAT 101, or CMS 141), JOU 220 (KCTCS JAT 204 or JOU 204), PRE 275, ARTH101 (KCTCS ART 105 or ART 201) or ARTH 100 (KCTCS ART 106 or HUM 213)

Category 6: NKU Potential Area of Specialty for Arts Management

Category	NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCSS Course	Taken at KCTCS
Theatre	TAR 346	Theatre History	3		
Theatre	TAR 347	Dramatic Literature	3		
Theatre	TAR 371	Theater Management (pre-req: TAR 160)	3		
Theatre	TAR 376	Stage Management (pre-req: TAR 160)	3		
Public Relations	PRE 300	Event Planning and Messaging	3		
Public Relations	PRE 350	Music & Entertainment Publicity	3		
Public Relations	PRE 376	Public Relations Writing (pre-req or co-req: PRE 275 and JOU 220)	3		
Public Relations	PRE 377	Public Relations Cases and Campaigns (pre-req: PRE 275)	3		
Art History	ARTH 304	Survey of Asian Art (pre-req: 3 semester hours of ARTH)	3		
Art History	ARTH 349	Women and Art	3		
Art History	ARTH 351	Medieval Art (pre-req: ARTH 100 or ARTH101 or ARTH 304)	3		
Art History	ARTH 355	Art of the Twentieth Century (pre-req: ARTH 100 or ARTH 101 or ARTH 304)	3		
		Total Hours	36		

Environmental Issues. What kinds of careers are available? Government, urban planning, industry, environmental technician, health and safety, park services, environmental education, conservation. The minor in Environmental Studies is recommended (22 hours).

Prerequisites: ENV 110 (NS) (KCTCS BIO122, BSL 244, ENV 144, or ENVS 110) or BIO123 (NS) (KCTCS BIO 102, BIO 120, or BIO 124), BIO 150/150L (NS) (KCTCS BIO 114/115, BIO 150/151), CHE 120/120L (KCTCS CHE 104/CHM 104, CHE 105/115, CHE 170/CHE 175, or CHM 455), CHE 121/121L (KCTCS CHE 180/CHE 185), and SOC 101 or SOC 100 (SB) (KCTCS SOC 101 or SOC 105).

Category 7: NKU Potential Area of Specialty for Environmental Issues

Category	NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTC
Environmental Studies	BIO 123	Human Ecology	3	BIO 102 or BIO 120 or BIO 124	
Environmental Studies	BIO 151 BIO 151L	Biology II and Biology Laboratory II (pre-req: BIO 150)	4	BIO 116 + BIO 117 or	

Category	NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTC
				BIO 152 + BIO 153	
Environmental Studies	ENV 308	Science Communication (pre-req: ENV 110 or BIO 151)	3		
Environmental Studies	ENV 350	Environmental Toxicology (pre-req: BIO 151 and CHE 121)	3		
Environmental Studies	ENG 326	Literature and the Environment	3		
Environmental Studies	ANT 345	Environmental Anthropology	3		
Geography	GEO 306	Environmental Resource Management	3		
Geography	GEO 314	Maps & Map Interpretation	3	GIS 110	
Geography	GEO 340	Sustainable Food Systems	3		
Geography	GEO 418	Geo Information Systems	4		
Sociology	SOC 303	Social Psychology (pre-req: SOC 100 or SOC 101)	3		
Sociology	SOC 355	Sociology of the Environment (pre-req: SOC 100 or SOC 101)	3		
Sociology	SOC 371	Environment, Society, and Public Health (pre-req: SOC 100 or SOC 101)	3		
Sociology	SOC 415	Sociology of Planning and Development (pre-req: SOC 100 or SOC 101)	3		
		Total Hours	44		

Hospitality. What kinds of careers are available? Managerial work in hotels, restaurants, tourism industry, travel agency, public relations, travel writer,

Prerequisites: JOU 110 or EMB 100 (KCTCS JOU 101, CMS 141, COM 249, COM 250, JAT 101, or CMS 141), JOU 220 (KCTCS JAT 204 or JOU 204), CMST 101 or CMST 110 (KCTCS COM 101, COM 181, COMS 181, SP 181, or TEC 200), CMST 220 (KCTCS CMS 101 or COM 252), PSY 100 (SB) (KCTCS FY 110, PSY 100, PSY 101, PSY 110, PY 110, or PY 111), PRE 275.

Category 8: NKU Potential Area of Specialty for Hospitality

Category	NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
Public Relations	PRE 300	Public Relations Event Planning and Messaging	3		
Public Relations	PRE 376	Public Relations Writing (pre-req: PRE 275 and JOU 220)	3		
Public Relations	PRE 396	Public Relations Internship	3		

Category	NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
		(pre-req: PRE 376)			
Public Relations	PRE 400	Public Relations Planning and Account Management (pre-req: PRE 275)	3		
Communication Studies	CMST 303	Organizational Communication (pre-req: CMST 101 or CMST 110)	3		
Communication Studies	CMST 320	Advanced Interpersonal Communication (pre-req: CMST 220)	3		
Communication Studies	CMST 340	Strategies of Persuasion (pre-req: CMST 101 or CMST 110)	3	CMS 290 or COM 287 or SPE 340	
Communication Studies	CMST 355	Culture and Communication (pre-req: CMST 101 or CMST 110)	3	COM 254	
Psychology	PSY 300	Personality Psychology (pre-req: PSY 100)	3		
Psychology	PSY 304	Consumer Psychology (pre-req: PSY 100)	3		
Psychology	PSY 315	Psychology of Human Sexuality (pre-req: PSY 100)	3	FAM 253	
Psychology	PSY 340	Social Psychology (pre-req: PSY 100)	3		
		Total Hours	36		

Family Services. What kinds of careers are available? Health services, counseling, social work, community work

Prerequisites: PSY 100 (SB) (KCTCS FY 110, PSY 100, PSY 101, PSY 110, PY 110, or PY 111), and SOC 101 or SOC 100 (SB) (KCTCS SOC 101 or SOC 105).

Category 9: NKU Potential Area of Specialty for Family Services

Category	NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
Psychology	PSY 300	Personality Psychology (pre-req: PSY 100)	3		
Psychology	PSY 321	Lifespan Development (pre-req: PSY 100)	3	AHS 100 or PSY 223	
Psychology	PSY 333	Abnormal Psychology (pre-req: PSY 100)	3	PSY 298 or PY 298	
Psychology	PSY 405	Counseling Psychology (pre-req: PSY 100)	3		

Category	NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
Sociology	SOC 315	Marriage and the Family (pre-req: SOC 100 or SOC 101)	3		
Sociology	SOC 334	Contemporary Sociological Theory (pre-req: SOC 100 or SOC 101)	3		
Sociology	SOC 342	Sociology of Aging (pre-req: SOC 100 or SOC 101)	3		
Sociology	SOC 435	Sociology of Sexualities (pre-req: SOC 100 or SOC 101)	3		
Human Services	HSR 300	Ethics and Issues in Human Service Profession	3	HMS 102	
Human Services	HSR 303	Multicultural Issues in Human Services	3	HMS 220	
Human Services	HSR 314	Death, Dying, and Grief	3	PSY 230	
Human Services	HSR 340	Introduction to Substance Use in Human Services	3	HMS 210 + HMS 211 = HSR 340 + HSR 300T	
Total Hours			36		

Legal Studies. What kinds of careers are available? Paralegal, probation officer, social worker, law school, court administrators and clerks, police officer, corrections, policy development and analysis, politics.

Prerequisites: ENG 102 (WC) (KCTCS ENG 102), CMST 101 (OC) or CMST 110 (OC) (KCTCS COM 101, COM 181, COMS 181, SP 181, or TEC 200), and CMST 220 (KCTCS CMS 101 or COM 252)

Category 10: NKU Potential Area of Specialty for Legal Studies

Category	NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
English	ENG 371	Traditional Grammar (pre-req: ENG 101)	3		
English	ENG 316	Social Issues in Literature (pre-req: ENG 101)	3		
English	ENG 340	Business Writing (pre-req: ENG 102)	3	ENG 103 or ENG 203 or OST 235 or BET 120 + BET 220 or BETS 120 or CMS 152 or	
English	ENG 345	Legal Writing (pre-req: ENG 102)	3		

Category	NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
Philosophy	PHI 302	Ethics and Scientific Research	3		
Philosophy	PHI 309	Global Ethics	3		
Philosophy	PHI 320	Social and Political Philosophy	3		
Philosophy	PHI 330	Philosophy and Law	3		
Communication Studies	CMST 310	Argumentation (pre-req: CMST 101 or CMST 110)	3		
Communication Studies	CMST 320	Advanced Interpersonal Communication (pre-req: CMST 220)	3		
Communication Studies	CMST 335	Communication and Conflict (pre-req: CMST 101 or CMST 110)	3		
Communication Studies	CMST 355	Culture and Communication (pre-req: CMST 101 or CMST 110)	3	COM 254	
		Total Hours	36		

Arts and Culture Writing. What kinds of careers are available? Freelance writing, media broadcasting, hospitality, arts journalism.

Prerequisites: JOU 110 (KCTCS JOU 101), EMB 100 (KCTCS CMS 141, COM 249, COM 250, JAT 101, or CMS 141), JOU 220 (KCTCS JAT 204 or JOU 204), CMST 101 or CMST 110 (KCTCS COM 101, COM 181, COMS 181, SP 181, or TEC 200), MUS 108 (KCTCS MUS 222), CIN 200 (KCTCS HUM 281), CIN 301, PSC 100 (KCTCS POL 101, PS 101, PS 151), SOC 101 or SOC 100 (SB) (KCTCS SOC 101 or SOC 105).

Category 11: NKU Potential Area of Specialty for Arts and Culture Writing

Category	NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
Popular Culture Studies	POP 369	Folklore and Pop Culture	3		
Popular Culture Studies	SOC 335	Popular Culture (pre-req: SOC 100 or SOC 101)	3	SOC 250	
Popular Culture Studies	POP 305	Black Popular Culture	3		
Popular Culture Studies	ANT 358	Art and Culture	3		
Journalism	JOU 485	Mass Communication Law (pre-req: JOU 110)	3		
Journalism	JOU 440	Current Topics in Media Ethics (pre-req: JOU 110 or EMB100)	3		
Journalism	JOU 321	Digital Publishing (pre-req: JOU 110 or EMB 100)	3		

Category	NKU Course	Course	Credits	KCTCS Course	Taken at KCTCS
Journalism	JOU 340	Feature Writing (pre-req: JOU 220)	3		
Cinema Studies	ENG 302	Literature and Film (AH)	3	ENG 190 or ENG 281 or HUM 160	
Cinema Studies	HIS 380	History and Film	3		
Cinema Studies	CIN 494	Studies in Cinema (pre-req: CIN 200 or CIN 301 or CIN 302)	3		
Cinema Studies	PSC 320	American Politics in Film (pre-req: PSC 100, PSC 101, PSC 102, PSC 103 or PSC 110)	3		
		Total Hours	36		

General Studies Track

Students seeking the Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (BAIS) –General Studies Track should work with an advisor to create a cohesive plan with the courses they have taken. The General Studies Track is available only in the accelerated online format and is open to students with at least 60 credit hours.

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