



Division of Interdisciplinary and International Studies

www.ithaca.edu/diis
Office of the Dean
307 Job Hall
Ithaca College

The Division of Interdisciplinary and International Studies was established in the fall of 2002 to support interdisciplinary and international study at the College and to recognize the importance of such study to the intellectual vitality of the campus community. Students in this Division have an opportunity to enjoy an educational experience that crosses all schools on our campus and are introduced to an array of timely, important issues challenging the world today.

Majors

Culture and Communication
B.A.

Gerontology
B.A.
B.S.

Legal Studies
B.A.

Minors

Culture and Communication
Gerontology
Health Communication
Legal Studies
Native American Studies

Programs

Center for the Study of Culture,
Race, and Ethnicity
<http://www.ithaca.edu/cscre>

Gerontology Institute
<http://www.ithaca.edu/aging>

Office of International Programs
<http://www.ithaca.edu/oip>

Project Look Sharp
<http://www.ithaca.edu/looksharp>

Washington Semester Program
<http://www.ithaca.edu/washington>

Student Opportunities

Students are encouraged to explore unique learning opportunities within our division (DIIS) and across the campus at large. **Culture and Communication** students learn how to function in an increasing complex global culture. **Legal Studies** students learn a variety of research and methodological approaches that enable them to understand how the law works. **Gerontology** majors gain a broad view of the biological, psychological and social aspects of aging and graduate prepared to work in a variety of settings with or on behalf of older adults. The **Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity** is dedicated to encouraging students to engage their own identities as well as those of people different from themselves. There are many exciting opportunities available. Contact any program in the Division for more information.

And all of the students in our division reap the benefits of our office of **International Programs**. From the Ithaca College London Center and from Singapore to Australia, study abroad opportunities are varied and exciting. In fact, our Walkabout Down Under experience is one of the most unique study abroad programs in Australia. All units in our division encourage study abroad and work closely with students to ensure they have the best experiences possible.

DIIS: Who Are We?

In recognition of the importance of interdisciplinary study, the College brought together the units on campus dedicated to a multi-and interdisciplinary approach to teaching. The result is a diverse mix of programs united in the desire to consider critical social issues from multiple perspectives and to move beyond the boundaries of the traditional disciplines. All units share inherent elements of critical thinking and preparation for exciting careers.

The Importance of Interdisciplinary Study

The Division of Interdisciplinary and International Studies encourages pursuit of interdisciplinary study wherever it may occur at the College, within or between courses, departments, and/or schools. Equally important, interdisciplinary study enables students to take a hard look at how career choices fit into our broad, constantly changing, global community. Careers of the future will not fit into neat little packages—we will need to know how to apply our knowledge across many different fields—and know how to adapt as our careers evolve or change. Our division hopes to instill in students a passion for achievement and a lifelong intellectual curiosity as they select and design courses directed towards a specialization.

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www.ithaca.edu/dis.php

Additional Program Information

Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity 607-274-1056

Courses offered by CSCRE focus primarily on the experiences of groups traditionally marginalized, underrepresented, or misrepresented in our society as well as in the curriculum. At the same time, these courses provide an opportunity to explore and analyze the nature of interconnections between the United States and the rest of the world. CSCRE sponsors a year-long lecture and film series. CSCRE was established to function as an important resource for the community by supporting meaningful dialogue and learning; developing conflict-confronting and conflict-resolving skills; and serving as a beacon for faculty, speakers, and students who support its objectives.

Gerontology Institute 607-274-1965

Gerontology is the multidisciplinary study of the biological, psychological, and sociological phenomena associated with old age and aging. Gerontology includes the study of stereotypes and images of aging, health and illness, personality and mental health, family relationships and caregiving, recreation and leisure, retirement and Social Security, legal issues, community services, long-term care and the needs and experiences of professionals who serve older adults. The Gerontology Institute administers the major and minor programs in gerontology, facilitates aging-related research and scholarship, provides training to professionals who work with older adults, and supports community service activities. A primary goal of the Institute is to provide opportunities for students to learn about aging and careers in gerontology through courses, experiential learning, involvement in professional organizations and participation in research projects.

Culture and Communication Program 607-274-3431

This major makes connections between two areas of inquiry: the study of how culture informs and shapes all aspects of communication, and its corollary area of investigation—how communication is the process through which culture is created, modified, and challenged. To explore these dynamic relationships, students consider culture and communication from a variety of intellectual perspectives across schools and divisions at the College. Majors complete six core courses and one foundation course for each area of inquiry, satisfy the requirements for a minor in a complementary field, achieve foreign language proficiency, and complete the full requirements for one of four areas of inquiry. Majors build an interdisciplinary intellectual framework that forges connections between the study of culture and the diversity of communication forms, practices, and organizations.

International Programs 607-274-3306

All students can enhance their undergraduate program with a summer or semester of international study. OIP staff members assist students in selecting study programs that fulfill their academic needs as well as their personal interests. With careful planning, most students in any major can study abroad. The office is committed to providing a caring and supportive atmosphere for international students who choose to study at Ithaca College. Cultural diversity and global perspectives are important values at Ithaca and the contributions international students make to the campus community are greatly appreciated. Currently there are about 200 students from 55 countries studying at the College.

Legal Studies Program 607-274-3944

The Legal Studies curriculum incorporates an interdisciplinary approach and prepares students for the complex lives they will lead, which assuredly will include law as an underpinning. The curriculum is not intended as a substitute or as a preparation for any part of a law school curriculum, nor does it provide a paralegal certificate. Students graduating in legal studies are particularly well qualified to pursue graduate work on legal topics in humanities and social science disciplines, or attend professional school in fields such as teaching, public policy, business and health administration, social work, and law. Legal studies graduates find employment in both the public and private sectors.

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