

# University College

University College provides university-wide academic and administrative support and leadership in matters involving certain undergraduate programs, courses and academic support services. The college also provides assistance and support to the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in a variety of university-wide curricular concerns and administrative activities. The college serves as the academic home for exploratory students who have not yet declared an academic major. The college provides leadership in the administration of university-wide scholarships, guidance on transfer credit, decisions regarding substitutions for the general education program, and works with other campus offices regarding advanced placement. The Dean of University College works closely with the General Education Council and the Council on Undergraduate Academic Advising. The Dean of University College, jointly with the Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment Services, oversees the activities of the Center for Student Leadership.

## Programs of Study

Along with other campus departments, colleges, and schools, the Dean of University College works to maintain the high quality programs that have long characterized Kennesaw State University. Together with the solid faculty of KSU, University College focuses on student academic excellence and success.

Additionally, University College maintains a central role in advancing certain interdisciplinary programs on campus. The Department of University Studies within University College offers students a degree program in Interdisciplinary Studies.

This Interdisciplinary Studies degree program directly reflects and advances several aspects of the institutional mission at the baccalaureate level. Building on the general education program, an interdisciplinary studies degree continues to advance the liberal arts tradition at the heart of Kennesaw State University.

Given the collaborative and integrative nature of this degree, it both broadens and deepens the current degree offerings, while at the same time ensures a focused, deliberate custom-designed degree program for students.

The unique characteristic of this degree is that it requires students enrolled in the program to have two or more intentional academic concentrations. The degree in Interdisciplinary Studies is a thoughtful, planned, substantive, schedule of coursework reflecting the integration of two or more disciplines, culminating in an applied or professionally oriented experience with consistent oversight by an interdisciplinary panel of faculty.

Institutionally, by encouraging cross-disciplinary connections, this degree facilitates, increases, and enhances linkages between and among existing departments. Additionally it provides students with a broad spectrum of institutional options.

## Major in Interdisciplinary Studies, B.S.

### **Bachelor of Science Degree**

#### **University College**

**(770) 499-3350**

**<http://www.kennesaw.edu/universitycollege>**

The Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies allows students maximum flexibility to custom-design a curriculum that will help them meet their personal and career goals. Such a program of study must assure depth as well as breadth of study. Therefore, students must take a total of 39 upper-division hours across at least two different disciplines. A minimum of 12 upper-division hours must be taken in each discipline. Students must earn a grade of C or above in these upper-division requirements, as well as meet the university's general education requirements and complete an additional 15 hours of upper-level course work addressing writing and/or communication skills; an understanding of theory and culture; and the ability to apply and integrate skills in the selected disciplines. Nine hours of related studies courses must also be built into the IDS curriculum. To graduate, an IDS major must have completed a minimum of 123 credit hours, including those mandated by the IDS degree.

To ensure a coherent degree plan, an IDS major must construct a written rationale explaining how combining the two (or three) disciplines addresses the student's personal and career goals. Each student will be required to meet with one of the IDS Program Coordinators in the Department of University Studies to draw up the proposed curriculum and formulate the rationale.

In summary, an IDS student must

- work with an IDS advisor to construct a degree plan combining at least two disciplines
- take 39 hours in upper division courses from these (or related) disciplines
- list student learning outcomes in the IDS proposal
- write a formal rationale for the degree, explaining why the personal and professional goals outlined there cannot be fulfilled with one of the degrees already offered at KSU
- have some summative experience, through research, coursework, internship, or practicum, to give an applied focus to the degree.

Once an IDS proposal is complete, the IDS coordinator will send a copy to each discipline's department chair for evaluation and approval.

The following is the proposed curriculum for the major in Interdisciplinary Studies, B.S.

<b>GENERAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY-WIDE FITNESS FOR LIVING REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>*LOWER DIVISION MAJOR REQUIREMENTS (AREA F)</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>*UPPER DIVISION MAJOR REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>39</b>
<p>Consisting of a minimum of 12 credit hours in each discipline, with a minimum of two disciplines. Each discipline must include courses focusing on a single theme (although they may represent diverse departments) and be consistent with career and educational goals.</p>	
<b>*RELATED STUDIES</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>GENERAL ELECTIVES</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PROGRAM TOTAL: 123</b>	

\*These areas are to be planned closely with the student's advisor and approved by the Interdisciplinary Studies Council.

Students are strongly encouraged to have some form of an internship, practicum, or applied experience in their program. However, if students do not have any of those listed, they should have coursework or projects within courses that pull together the disciplines in a very specific, focused experience.

Any unforeseen and/or necessary changes can be made on the recommendation of the student's advisor and the approval of the Interdisciplinary Studies Council.

## Department of University Studies within University College

University College provides oversight and operations for the following University-wide programs (each housed in the Department of University Studies):

- English as a Second Language (ESL) Study and Tutorial Center
- Honors Program
- Joint Enrollment Honors
- Y2K (Year 2 Kennesaw)/Sophomore Year Experience
- KSU 4401/Senior Year Experience
- Learning Support Programs
- Math Lab
- Supplemental Instruction

### The ESL (English as a Second Language) Program/ESL Study and Tutorial Center

The ESL Program in the Department of University Studies (University College) houses the ESL Study and Tutorial Center—an attractive, comfortable space that provides students computers for academic work and an extensive selection of ESL textbooks. At the Center, international students are offered tutoring in reading, writing, pronunciation, and Regents' test preparation. General education academic advisement, registration assistance, grammar and Alternative Regents' workshops, and extended-time testing (by appointment) are also available.

An important program coordinated through the ESL Study and Tutorial Center is the Conversation Partners Program. This program gives international students the opportunity to practice speaking and listening in informal settings outside the classroom, as well as learn more about campus and American cultures. Improving retention as well as helping to internationalize our campus, this popular program is offered both fall and spring semesters.

Testing is also an important part of the program coordinated through the ESL Study and

Tutorial Center. Both the Alternative Regents' tests and the Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency (MTELP), an alternative to TOEFL, are offered to international students and applicants.

### Honors Program

The award-winning Honors Program at Kennesaw State University has two divisions. For recently matriculated or currently enrolled undergraduates, the Undergraduate Honors Program offers a flexible array of excellent Honors experiences designed to challenge exceptional students. For high school juniors or seniors who want to complete college courses for dual credit, the Joint Enrollment Honors Program (JEHP) provides extensive academic support designed to make the transition to university life as smooth as possible. Both programs provide honors students with exciting academic challenges, intense mentoring relationships with faculty, connection to the student honors community, and applied learning that reflects the students' level of accomplishment.

### Undergraduate Honors Program Admission Criteria

Students who consistently exceed the expectations of their instructors, and therefore, need and want the challenge of academic experiences qualitatively different from those provided in most existing courses, can find a home in the outstanding KSU Undergraduate Honors Program. Those admitted to the program will need to match one of the following profiles:

- Students who have recently graduated from high school, are entering Kennesaw State as first-year students, have a high school grade point average of 3.7 or better in their academic courses, and have made a composite score of 1100 or better on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (equivalent ACT scores also accepted)
- Currently enrolled students (including those who have transferred from other institutions) who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.7 or better in no fewer than 30 hours and no more than 60 hours of KSU course work.

The Honors Director may waive these eligibility criteria for candidates who can present a convincing and substantive case of their motivation and potential to succeed in the Undergraduate Honors Program.

Students identified as Honors prospects should receive an invitation to join the program. Others should contact the Honors Director at (770) 423-6116 if they think they are eligible and have not received any communication from the Honors Office. This is an outstanding, competitive program and you are encouraged to submit materials early.

### **Undergraduate Honors Program Fundamentals**

The Undergraduate Honors Program is organized around three fundamentals providing students with a rounded academic experience: Honors Faculty mentorship, formal Honors Experiences, and the Honors Colloquium.

- **Fundamental One - Honors Faculty Mentorship:** Honors students are carefully matched with individual faculty mentors who are chosen from the ranks of the Honors Faculty and share their advisees' academic interests and professional objectives. Honors mentors are more than academic advisors (though they play that role, too). The active intellectual exchange between mentors and their students is designed to foster a peer relationship that helps the students to achieve their potential as well as gain a faculty advocate.
- **Fundamental Two - Honors Experiences:** Honors students must complete four Honors Experiences.
  1. Honors Experience I is based in traditional course work. Students may fulfill this requirement by taking an Honors Seminar (Honors 2290 or 4490) with other Honors students; by establishing an Honors contract in a non-Honors course; or by completing the requirements of an Honors Directed Study (Honors 4400) with one faculty member; or by taking an Honors section of a general education course embedded in an Honors learning community or offered independently.
  2. Honors Experience II has an applied focus, in which students use the knowledge and skills they have learned in their major academic disciplines in contexts that model the laboratory or workplace. This experience may be conducted on or off campus and must be qualitatively different from similar experiences already offered in the major. Students especially enjoy having the opportunity to work closely with individuals in their discipline in a "hands-on" environment.
  3. Honors Experience III may be a second course work or applied learning experience. Again, students gain intensive experience in their major by going more deeply than their non-Honors peers into an area of their choice.
  4. Honors Experience IV is the Senior Capstone Experience, an original research project growing out of the student's major concentration; a project based in applied research that provides new insights into that discipline; an original synthesis of information or research already available in the discipline; or an extensive service learning project for which the student is the primary coordinator; or an original creative work.
- **Fundamental Three - The Honors Colloquium:** Honors students must successfully complete two Honors Colloquia or one Honors Colloquium and one Honors Seminar. Honors 3000, the Honors Colloquium, is a one-hour course in which Honors students interact with each other and with members of the Honors Faculty in an informal setting designed to build and nurture an Honors community exploring an interdisciplinary topic. Honors 2290 or 4490 (more formal three-hour Honors seminar courses) may be substituted for one Honors Colloquium.

To help students develop a perspective on their work that will be useful in employment after graduation, all Honors students are required to keep the products of their Honors Experiences and Honors Colloquia (research papers, journals, documentation of exhibits, etc.) in an Honors Portfolio. To be designated an Honors Scholar, a

student must complete all four Honors Experiences with an A or a B (or the equivalent); must complete each Honors Colloquium with a "Satisfactory" grade; and must receive the Honors Council's approval for both the Senior Capstone project and the Honors Portfolio. The Honors Portfolio serves not only as a marker of the students' accomplishments, but is also an outstanding resource after graduation.

Students in KSU's Undergraduate Honors Program receive advanced priority registration as long as they maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better; see their Honors mentors at least once a semester; and perform satisfactorily in their Honors Experiences and Honors Colloquia. Each semester, Honors students have the opportunity to participate in special Honors events. Honors Scholars receive a special designation on their transcripts and diplomas and are recognized at graduation. We are proud of our Honors Program and believe it provides students the opportunity to advance their learning in an applied, individualized context.

### **Joint Enrollment Honors Program Admission Criteria**

Rising high school juniors and seniors are eligible for the Joint Enrollment Honors Program if they:

- a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in their academic course work and are on track to complete the College Preparatory requirements  
AND
- a composite score of 1100 on the SAT, with minimum subparts of 530 verbal and 530 math; or an ACT score of at least 25 composite with subpart minimums of 24 English and 24 math.

### **Joint Enrollment Honors Program (JEHP) Fundamentals**

- Students admitted to the Joint Enrollment Honors Program at Kennesaw State may attend full-time (taking 12-15 hours of course work, or 4-5 courses) or part-time (taking fewer than 12 hours of course work, or 1-3 courses).
- To complete the final units of college preparatory English, mathematics, and social

science required for high school graduation, JEHP students must take two college courses in these subject areas. Special Honors courses are offered in each area but are not required for participation in the program. JEHP students are also eligible to take most 1000- or 2000-level courses listed in the undergraduate catalog if they satisfy course prerequisites and receive the approval of both their high school counselors and their KSU Honors advisors.

- JEHP students who attend public high schools may be able to take advantage of the Post-Secondary Options (PSO) Tuition Grant waiver, which, to date, has partially or completely subsidized tuition for program participants. Please note, however, that PSO funding is a special subsidy awarded at the pleasure of the state legislature. If the legislature withdraws this funding, students may be required to pay full tuition and fees for their Joint Enrollment experience.
- JEHP students who complete their application files by the appropriate deadlines will receive a host of advantages, including advanced priority registration, special advising services, priority enrollment in Joint-Enrollment Honors classes, and a guaranteed space in regular KSU classes if they enroll at their appointed registration time.
- Throughout the year, JEHP students may participate in special Honors events, including a dedicated summer orientation.

Incoming first-year or currently enrolled students interested in the Undergraduate Honors Program (not the Joint Enrollment Honors Program) should contact Dr. Liza Davis, the Honors Director, at (678) 797-2364. For information regarding admission to the Joint Enrollment Honors Program, interested high school juniors or seniors should contact the Office of Admissions at (770) 423-6300 and ask for the Joint Enrollment Admissions Counselor. After they are admitted to the program, JEHP students may contact Dr. Katherine Kinnick, the Director of Pre-College Programs, for information regarding orientations, course offerings, and other academic aspects of being a Joint Enrollment student. Dr. Kinnick may be reached at (770) 423-6116.

### **Y2K (Year 2 Kennesaw)/Sophomore Year Experience**

This program focuses on second year students through the development of sophomore-level Learning Communities that are uniquely designed to meet specific disciplinary needs. It also provides Peer Mentors to certain classes through collaboration with the Center for Student Leadership.

### **KSU 4401/Senior-Year Experience**

A “bookend” to the First-Year Experience, the Senior-Year Experience is a program designed around an institutional capstone course, KSU 4401, which offers upper classmen an opportunity to learn how best to prepare for the “post-university” experience. With its director and team of designated faculty, the Senior-Year Experience Program focuses on career development, graduate school explorations, and community service opportunities. Students earn three hours of upper-level elective credit, develop a portfolio that highlights their skills and experience, and collaborate with peer teams and experienced faculty.

### **Learning Support Programs**

Learning Support Programs have a specific mission: providing academic support to those students whose entrance and placement scores indicate that they need remedial instruction before they enroll in regular credit classes. Students whose SAT or ACT scores are in the lower quadrant of all applicants are required to take the corresponding sub-tests of COMPASS (Computer –Adaptive Placement Assessment and Support System). The Office of Admissions, the CAPS Center, or the Department of University Studies will contact students needing to take these courses. According to these placement scores, students may be placed in Learning Support courses in English, math, or reading. These are non-credit courses such as English 0099 (grammar and composition), Math 0097 (Elementary Algebra), Math 0098 (Intermediate Algebra), and Reading 0099 (Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Skills). Learning Support courses are designed so that students may complete all requirements in an area in a maximum of two semesters.

Since these are academic assistance courses, there are certain restrictions placed by the Board of Regents and/or by Kennesaw State University upon students enrolled in these courses. The following restrictions apply to all Learning Support students: Students must register for the LSP courses they are required to take each semester of enrollment at KSU before they are eligible to register for any regular credit courses. If they do choose to take credit courses at the same time, these courses must not have LSP courses as prerequisites. They may not, however, accumulate more than 20 hours of academic credit before completing all Learning Support requirements. They also may not attempt any Learning Support discipline more than two times. Students may not withdraw from their Learning Support courses unless they withdraw from credit courses as well. Although these courses do not carry degree credit, students do receive institutional credit and thus may satisfy requirements for VA benefits and other financial assistance. Unsuccessful completion of Learning Support requirements by students will result in exclusion from further study at KSU. Also, the program offers two courses in Regents test preparation, RGTR 0198 - Reading and RGTE 0199 - English. In addition, the program provides a variety of tutorial services, including ESL tutoring for non-native speakers, math tutoring for math students and writing assistance for non-traditional students.

### **The Math Lab**

The Math Lab is a free, on campus tutoring service available to all currently enrolled KSU students. Services are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Access to videos, software, such as Scientific Notebook, Workplace, NovaNet, and other math-related computer software is also available. Tutors assist students with the understanding of math concepts, analysis of math problems, and skill building. All tutors have had Calculus I or higher and have completed the KSU tutor training workshop.

The lab is located on the 4th floor of the Library in room 433. For other information about the Math Lab, call 770-423-6044.

### Supplemental Instruction

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is a program whereby students in selected “high-risk” courses (courses with a high D,F,W rate) are provided the opportunity to receive additional instruction facilitated by students who have been successful in those courses in previous semesters. They receive content instruction as well as help in analysis, critical thinking, and problem solving as it relates to the subject matter. National studies have shown that students who take advantage of this opportunity generally perform better than matched students who do not avail themselves of the service. SI is coordinated within the Department of University Studies with the cooperation of the discipline departments in which the selected courses are housed.

### Department of First-Year Programs

The Department of First-Year Programs within University College provides oversight and operations for the following University-wide programs:

- KSU 1101 / First-Year Experience
- Learning Communities Program

### KSU 1101/First-Year Experience

KSU’s First-Year Seminar (KSU 1101) is an integral part of the undergraduate KSU curriculum that introduces first-year students to higher education. As the name of the textbook for the course implies KSU 1101 provides the “Foundations of Academic Inquiry.” That foundation includes an introduction to the culture of the university; an opportunity to enhance their academic and personal success; the promotion of communication, critical thinking, and ethical decision-making skills; career exploration; and an appreciation for global issues and diversity. A defining characteristic of this three-hour, academically oriented course is the close interaction of the instructor and student. This interaction is facilitated by the intentionally small size (20-25 students) of each seminar. First-Year faculty also act as advisors for exploratory students who have not yet declared a major. The curriculum also includes a First-Year Common Reader program that engages stu-

dents in a common experience in a global topic to promote discourse and discovery. The First-Year Seminar is often featured as an anchor in Learning Communities. First-time, full-time students with fewer than 15 credit hours are required to enroll in KSU 1101 (as an independent course) or one of the Learning Communities.

### Learning Communities Program

The Learning Communities program is a curriculum initiative that promotes the integration of General Education and other lower-division courses during a student’s first semester. A typical learning community is a theme-based cluster of courses that allows a student cohort to take 2-4 courses together while also taking advantage of faculty collaboration, out-of-class learning opportunities, and service learning. There are general interest communities and discipline-based communities that link major courses with General Education offerings. Enrollment in a Learning Community or a First-Year Seminar (KSU 1101) is required of all first-time, full-time students with fewer than 15 credit hours. Learning Communities help entering, first-year students adjust easily to college life and improve their chances for a successful college career. In each community, a group of 20-25 first-semester students enroll in the same sections of two or more first year classes. Learning Communities provide the perfect environment for successful learning. Because they know each other well, first-year students are more comfortable speaking out in class and working collaboratively. They form natural study groups and support groups with their peers. They begin to see connections between their courses through specially designed assignments. Academic research shows that participation in learning communities consistently improves students’ retention as well as their GPA—keeping them in college and helping them to be more successful.