INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Trinity’s Foundations curriculum ensures that graduates gain knowledge, skills, and experience in a variety of disciplines. Majors and minors in traditional disciplines provide focused training from one disciplinary standpoint. Interdisciplinary studies majors, minors, and courses intentionally combine course work from two or more disciplines. Some interdisciplinary programs furnish students with multiple perspectives on one topic or area of study. Others integrate multiple approaches to prepare students for a particular career or calling. All interdisciplinary studies provide coursework and experiences that stretch students’ abilities and provide new ways of engaging God’s creation.

MAJORS

Bioinformatics
The bioinformatics major includes coursework in biology, computer science, chemistry, and mathematics. See Biology for a full description of this major.

Cognitive and Speech Development
The cognitive and speech development major includes coursework in speech and communication science, psychology, special education, biology, chemistry, English, and mathematics. See Speech and Communication Sciences for a full description of this major.

Digital Design
The digital design major includes coursework in art and art history, computer science, business and communication arts. See Art for a full description of this major.

Music Production
The digital design major includes coursework in music, communication arts, computer science, and accounting. See Music for a full description of this major.

MINORS

Black Studies Minor
The Black studies minor seeks to help students develop an interdisciplinary perspective on the global experience of people of African descent. Courses in history, literature, music, psychology, and sociology offer multiple points of analysis for this experience while also complementing each other, thus enabling students to gain a greater understanding of the past, present, and future of the African Diaspora. Students will gain not only a greater appreciation of the legacy of racial oppression, which is a reflection of the broken nature of our society, but also of the possibilities for redemption through racial reconciliation. The minor will also help students develop their ability to consider the world from multiple perspectives, which will in turn enhance their understanding of their major field and better prepare them for the multi-varied nature of graduate studies and post-collegiate employment.

The interdisciplinary minor in black studies consists of 18 hours:

- ENGL 354 Postcolonial Literature (3)—CCS
- HIST 240 African-American History (3)
- HIST 281 History of Africa (3)—CCS

Nine hours from:
  - MUSC 136 Jazz Ensemble and/or MUSC 138 Gospel Choir (1) (up to three hours)
  - PSYC 252 Cross-Cultural Psychology (3)—CCS
  - SOC 246 Urban Sociology (3)
  - SOC 260 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (3)

History majors are required to have at least 15 credit hours distinct from the minor, while music majors are required to have at least 12 hours distinct from the minor.
Economics Studies Minor
The interdisciplinary economics studies minor is designed to enable students to articulate the principles of macro-and microeconomics and to critically examine through the lens of faith of a Reformed Christian perspective how these principles influence the world we live in. The required coursework emphasizes an understanding of the history and development of economic thought and the impact of economic development in improving poverty, the urban experience, and the overall human condition.

The interdisciplinary minor in economic studies consists of 18 hours:
- ECON 121 Macroeconomics (3)
- ECON 122 Microeconomics (3)
- ECON 225 World Poverty and Economic Development (3)—CCS
- ECON/HIST 353 History of Economic Thought (3)

Two courses from:
- BUAD/ECON 341 Financial Markets and Institutions (3)
- ENGL 354 Postcolonial Literature (3)—CCS
- HIST 282 The West and the World in the 20th Century (3)
- PLSC 270 Third-World (Non-Western) Politics (3)—CCS
- SOC 252 Sociology of Development (3)—CCS

Educational Technology Minor
The Educational Technology minor is an interdisciplinary minor composed of courses from Computer Science, Communication Arts, Art, and Education that is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pass the Illinois Educational Technology Specialist test. The required course work and passing a test score will qualify them for the Type 10 Illinois Technology Specialist Endorsement, which is added to the Illinois Elementary, Secondary, or Special Education license.

The interdisciplinary minor in education technology consists of 23-24 hours:
- EDUC 209 Technology in Education (3)
- EDUC 210 Principles of Online Learning (3)
- EDUC 309 School Technology (3)
- CPSC 111 Elements of Programming (3)
- CPSC 331 Networking (3)
- CPSC 332 Computing Administration (3)
- COMM 238 Video Production (3) or COMM 335 Video Editing (3)

One course from:
- ART 209 Digital Media (3)
- COMM 238 Video Production (3) or COMM 335 Video Editing (3)
- CPSC 107 Web Page Design (2)
- CPSC 261 Web Architecture and Design (3)

Minors who seek entitlement for Educational Technology Specialist need 24 hours. Minors who are not seeking entitlement for Educational Technology Specialist can substitute another Elective for EDUC 309. CPSC majors who choose this minor will need to ensure that 15 hours are distinct from their major.

Music in Worship Minor
The interdisciplinary minor in music in worship is designed to equip students for service in a local church in the area of music ministry. The required coursework emphasizes an understanding of diverse traditions of music in worship from both a theological and a musical perspective. The program further encourages and facilitates practical involvement in music in worship for interested students.

The interdisciplinary music in worship minor consists of 18-19 hours:
- CHML 307 Worship Leadership (3)
• THEO 304 The Nature and Ministry of the Church (3)
• THEO 330 History of Christianity (3)
Two courses from:
• MUSC 111 Introduction to Music Literature (3)
• MUSC 201 Music Theory I (3)
• MUSC 252 World Music (3)—CCS
One course from:
• MUSC 260 Being a Musician (3)
• MUSC 261 Reading and Writing about Music (3)
One proficiency from:
• Piano proficiency: The piano proficiency requirement may be fulfilled either by successfully completing the piano proficiency exam or by earning a B or better in MUSC 200 Class Piano (1)
• Guitar proficiency: The guitar proficiency requirement may be fulfilled either by successfully completing the guitar proficiency exam or by earning a B or better in MUSC 199 Guitar Class (1)

Theology majors completing the music in worship minor are required to take an additional three hours in music. One course from:
• MUSC 111 Introduction to Music Literature (3)
• MUSC 201 Music Theory I (3)
• MUSC 252 World Music (3)—CCS
• MUSC 260 Being a Musician (3)
• MUSC 261 Reading and Writing about Music (3)
• MUSC 331 Introduction to Conducting (3)

Music majors completing the music in worship minor are required to take the following additional course in theology:
• THEO 301 Basic Teachings of the Christian Faith (3)

Pre-Law Minor
The interdisciplinary pre-law minor includes a series of courses from eight disciplines. The course work will equip students with (1) basic knowledge of American government; (2) advanced skills in reading, thinking, writing, and speaking; and (3) engagement with broader historical, social, and legal themes. The pre-law minor also emphasizes the importance of a legal career as a special opportunity to serve God's justice and love in this fallen world.

The interdisciplinary pre-law minor consists of 21 hours:
Required core course:
• PLSC 201 American Government and Politics (3)
Three courses from:
• COMM 201 Persuasive Speaking (3)
• COMM 333 Communication Ethics (3)
• ENGL 375 Advanced Writing (3)
• PHIL 206 Logic (3)
Three courses from:
• BUAD 351 Contract Law (3)
• CJ 301 Criminal Law and the Judicial System (3)
• HIST 332 The Making and Remaking of America, 1800-1900 (3)
• HIST 338 Envisioning America: The United States Since 1900 (3)
• PLSC 250 United States Constitutional Law (3)
• PLSC/SOC 260 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (3)

Students planning on attending law school should take MATH 151 Statistics to fulfill the Foundations requirement for math.
Urban Studies Minor
The Urban Studies Minor takes advantage of Trinity’s Chicago regional location, as one of the continent’s most vital and extensive urban regions. It provides an assemblage of courses in which students examine environmental, historical, social, political, and economic Foundations and aspects of urban life and culture from a reformed Christian perspective. Particularly in its required courses, this minor provides foundational theory and knowledge of major concepts that support analysis and applications.

The interdisciplinary minor in urban studies consists of 18 hours:
- HIST/SOC 246 History of the City (3)
- HIST 250 History of Chicago (3)
- SOC 346 Advanced Urban Sociology: Analysis and Applications (3)

Three courses from:
- BIOL 102 Environmental Science (3)
- CSEM 301 Fine Arts Seminar (Arts in the City) (3)
- CSEM 305 Diversity and Inequality: Engaging Chicago Cross Culturally (3)
- CSEM 306 Urban Planning, Development and the Sustainable City (3)
- CHML 305 Urban Ministry Leadership (3)
- ECU 250 History, Politics, and Culture of Ecuador (3)
- GEOG 201 World Geography (3)—CCS
- PE 330 Societal Issues in Sport and Wellness (3)
- PLSC/SOC 260 Politics of Race and Ethnicity (3)

Other elective options include topics courses that are applicable to the minor when, by the review of the chair of sociology department, they are judged to substantially address urban phenomena and when they are designated as Urban Studies Minor courses in the Registrar's semester course listings:
- COMM 346: Topics in Communications
- CJ 310: Topics in Criminal Justice
- ENGL 356: Topics in English
- PLSC 351: Research in Public Policy
- SWK 300: Topics in Social Work

Writing Minor
The interdisciplinary writing minor combines course work and experiential learning to enable students to develop sophisticated critical and creative writing skills. Rooted in the belief that writing can contribute to the good, true, and beautiful, as well as the broken and suffering world, the program encompasses theory, history, and practice. It assists students in identifying as writers, valuing a writing community, and entering the public sphere with their work.

The interdisciplinary writing minor consists of 19-20 hours:

Three required courses oriented to advanced artistic practice:
- ENGL/COMM 220 Writers Guild (1) (taken twice)
- ENGL 375 Advanced Writing (3)
- ENGL 376 Creative Writing (3)

Two courses oriented to professional practice:
- COMM 241 Introduction to Journalism (3)
- COMM 242 Media Writing (3)
- COMM 325 Public Relations (3)
- COMM 346 Topics in Communication (3)

Two courses oriented to theory, history, and language:
- COMM 304 Communication Criticism (3)
- ENGL 370 History of the English Language (3)
- ENGL 371 Linguistics (3)
- ENGL 372 The History of Writing Instruction (3)
- ENGL 382 Writing Center Tutors Course (2)
• One discipline-specific, writing-intensive elective for any course in the program except for ENGL 375 and 376, if approved by the chair of the English or Communication Arts departments in consultation with the instructor of the course that would function as the elective.

Students majoring in English or communication arts must ensure that at least 12 credit hours of their interdisciplinary writing minor are distinct from their major. Students majoring in communication arts with a communication studies concentration must ensure that at least 15 credit hours of the minor are distinct from their major.

It is strongly recommended that students have sophomore or higher standing before taking the following courses in the program:

• COMM 304 Communication Criticism (3)
• ENGL 372 The History of Writing Instruction (3)
• ENGL 375 Advanced Writing (3)
• ENGL 382 Writing Center Tutors Course (2)

SUMMER INTENSIVE STUDY COURSES

Summer Intensive Study courses engage a topic, theme, place, or aspect of God’s creation and/or human society from a Christian perspective. When taking this course, a student concentrates on that single course and engages in nontraditional, experiential learning supplemental to the regular course offerings. This may involve sessions on campus, local field trips, and/or long distance travel, depending on the course selection. Some courses may be approved to meet the Foundations Cross Cultural Studies (CCS) requirement.

• IDIS 200 Summer Intensive Study (1-3)