INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES - BACHELOR OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES

The Bachelor of Individualized Studies (BIS) prepares students for 21st century challenges. The degree was created to serve students desiring an academic degree not already offered at NMSU. Students served by the BIS are those with extensive, comprehensive or eclectic academic and career interests. Self-motivated and self-directed students work closely with an advisor to select classes each semester with the intent of graduating in a timely manner. Recommended and chosen courses should be organized to meet the unique educational needs of the student, be it professional advancement within an existing career, academic preparation for graduate or professional programs, designing a strategy for career change or efficiently utilizing prior university credits to complete a Bachelor Degree.

A well-designed individualized curriculum emphasizes the value of approaching complex issues from multiple perspectives, equipping students with the requisite critical and analytical skills to become effective problem solvers in their chosen field of study or career. Each student should select courses designed to integrate academic and career goals into a cohesive degree program.

Extensive flexibility in program design implies increased individual responsibility for the BIS student. BIS students must be active participants in their academic experience, simultaneously pursuing a skill-set demonstrating:

- Coherent expression of ideas in writing;
- Capacity to conduct systematic and objective inquiry within their program of study;
- Ability to tolerate ambiguity within the design and implementation of a program of study;
- Proactive communication with the academic advisor;
- Commitment to effective follow-through on tasks related to program of study design and implementation.

To Declare a BIS

Students entering the BIS degree program work in consultation with a BIS advisor and complete a series of courses building on the applicant’s existing coursework and complementing the applicant’s education or career goals.

Deadline for Declaring BIS Major: Students must declare the BIS degree by the last date to drop with a “W” in a student’s final semester of study (see NMSU Academic Calendar for date).

Degree Requirements

- Complete the total number of credits as determined by your academic advisor and reflected in your Program of Study. (Note: a maximum of 30 credit hours in courses offered by the NMSU College of Business may be counted towards the degree, inclusive of courses used to satisfy NMSU General Education Core Requirements)
- Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours. (Note: total credits earned may exceed 120 dependent upon the developed Program of Study).
- Complete a minimum of 48 credit hours of upper-division courses (courses numbered 300 – 499) including six credit hours of Viewing a Wider World curriculum from two separate colleges at NMSU.
- Complete a minimum of 36 upper-division credit hours beyond the NMSU General Education Core Requirements with a grade of C- or better.
- Complete the University’s General Education Core Requirements (minimum of 35 credit hours of approved New Mexico Common Core courses).
- Student may not have completed the requirements, or be a candidate, for another baccalaureate degree at NMSU.