

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, BA

New College's emphasis on student choice and responsibility promotes the creativity, flexibility, and adaptability necessary for effective participation in the emergent communities of the future.

Admission into the Program

Applications to the New College on-campus program are available at <https://newcollege.ua.edu/degree-program/apply/>. The admission process is separate from, and in addition to, admission to The University of Alabama. Two factors are taken into consideration when making a decision for admission: the degree of motivation and serious intellectual independence exhibited by the applicant and the potential for the University to meet the applicant's academic goals. For details on the admissions process, please refer to the New College website.

Admission to the New College LifeTrack program is restricted to nontraditional students with a high school diploma or a GED score of 50 or higher (if taken prior to January 2002) and 500 or higher (if taken after January 2002). Students must be admitted to the University of Alabama and have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher on all previous college work. For details on the admissions process, please refer to the New College LifeTrack website.

New College Requirements

Students complete the bachelor of arts (BA) or the bachelor of science (BS) degree depending on the area in which the depth study is done. Students also complete all University, College of Arts and Sciences, and New College requirements. This includes the general education requirements, the following New College requirements, and other sufficient credits to total 120 applicable semester hours.

New College requires the successful completion of the following courses and activities:

Code and Title	Hours
Major Courses	
Individualized depth study	
Electives	18-24
Upper Level Courses	15
Credit Hours Subtotal:	33-39
Ancillary Courses	
Grades in ancillary courses are not computed into the major GPA. The major in Interdisciplinary Studies requires the successful completion of the following courses outside of the depth study:	
NEW 200 Idea Lab	3
NEW 495 Capstone Sem & Senior Project	2
New College Seminars	
In addition to NEW 200, students must complete four other New College seminars, with at least one seminar from each theme. Students must complete one seminar at the 200-level, two seminars at the 300- or 400-level, and a fourth seminar at any level. Approved seminars are listed below.	
One 200-level Seminar	4
Two 300/400-level Seminars	6-8
Seminar Elective	3-6
Credit Hours Subtotal:	18-23
Total Hours	51-62

200 Level Seminars		Hours
NEW 211	Perspectives in the Humanities	4
NEW 212	Creativity	4
NEW 213	Honors Creativity	4
NEW 215	Perspec. on Env. Literature	4
NEW 216	Digital Making	4
NEW 226	Organic Farming	4
NEW 230	Environmental Studies	4
NEW 237	Social Problems, Social Change	4
NEW 238	Honors: Soc. Probl. & Change	4
NEW 243	Interdisciplinary Sciences	4
NEW 273	Social Issues & Ethics	4

300/400 Level Seminars		Hours
NEW 300	Outdoor Leadership	3
NEW 332	Experimental Music	3
NEW 334	Everyday Forestry in Alabama	3
NEW 335	Everyday Wildlife In Alabama	3
NEW 337	Sustainable Home Landscaping	3
NEW 350	Community Arts	3
NEW 360	Sound Studies	3
NEW 365	Environmental Policy	3
NEW 390	Special Topics	3 to 4
NEW 401	Birds and Birding	4
NEW 403	Global Health	4
NEW 407	Landscapes of the South	3
NEW 410	Ethnography: Theory & Practice	3
NEW 411	Writing Workshop	3
NEW 412	Songwriting Workshop	4
NEW 414	Mind, Culture, and Society	3
NEW 415	Gender, Sexuality & Pop Culture	3
NEW 416	American Environmental Thought	3
NEW 418	Intermedia Arts	3
NEW 419	Arts Entrepreneurship	3
NEW 420	Popular Culture	3
NEW 421	Youth Culture	3
NEW 422	Girls' Culture	3
NEW 436	Public Leadership	4
NEW 438	Overview of American Law	4
NEW 439	Urban Spaces	3
NEW 442	Environmental Ethics	3
NEW 445	Technology and Humans	3
NEW 450	Belize	6
NEW 472	Social Change	4
NEW 474	Survival	4
NEW 484	Church, State & Ed	3
NEW 490	Special Topics	3 to 6

Footnotes

¹ Courses that satisfy the general education requirement will fulfill the humanities, social and behavioral science, natural science, and mathematical science requirements. Students pursuing a BS degree are required to complete MATH 125 Calculus I or MATH 145 Honors Calculus I or higher.

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Office of University Registrar explanation of grade point average calculations.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses must be earned on this campus.

Ancillary Courses

Students pursuing a bachelor of science (BS) degree must also complete MATH 125 Calculus I or MATH 145 Honors Calculus I.

Required Minor

Students who complete a New College depth study and are not required to complete a minor program of study.

Additional New College Requirements

Students are expected to complete a minimum of 42 semester hours while enrolled in New College. In addition, students are required to undergo a third-year program review.

Individualized Depth Study

Students will develop their own course of study in conjunction with their New College faculty advisor. The depth study must be comprised of at least 33 hours and can utilize courses from across campus. At least 15 hours of the depth study must be 300 or 400 level courses. Students may only include 12 hours of independent study in their depth study.

Integrative Seminars

New College seminars introduce students to the major areas of liberal arts study in one of three integrative themes: environment, sustainability and conservation; creativity and culture; and social problems and social change. In addition to NEW 200 Idea Lab, students must complete four seminars with at least one seminar in each theme, including two lower-level seminars from different themes, and two upper-level seminars in any theme. A minimum grade of C- is required for each integrative seminar. Transfer credit cannot be applied to seminar requirements. All five required seminars must be taken through New College.

Out-of-class Learning/Independent Study

New College has a strong commitment to provide students opportunities to pursue their academic interests outside of the classroom through out-of-class learning experiences for credit. In these out-of-class learning/independent study experiences, an agreement (or contract) is made among the student, the project director, and New College. The contract is a clear, concise statement that includes the course area, topic or problem the student intends to study, along with the bibliography, plans for evaluating the study, and the anticipated outcomes of the study. New College students are encouraged to take at least one Independent Study as part of their depth study.

New College LifeTrack Requirements

New College LifeTrack offers non-traditional students, typically ages 25 and older, the flexibility to design their college curriculum through an interdisciplinary approach to distance learning. The program also

includes opportunities for travel and on-campus course experiences. Students must have a high school diploma or a minimum GED score of 50 (if the GED was taken prior to 2002) or a minimum of 500 (if the GED was taken after 2002), and have a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA on all previous college coursework.

Admission to the Program

Interested students should fill out an application/reapplication to The University of Alabama, and select distance education and New College LifeTrack as the degree program. For more information, visit <https://newcollege.ua.edu/degree-program/apply/> or call (205) 348-6000.

Degree Requirements

All Students must complete at least 120 credit hours, 36 of which must be at the upper level, to earn a bachelor's degree. If you have previously completed college coursework, you will still need to complete at least 30 credit hours through New College LifeTrack.

Code and Title	Hours
Foundations of Adult Learning Seminar	3
New College LifeTrack Writing Skills	3
New College LifeTrack Research Writing	3
Communication Skills	6
Humanities ¹	12
Mathematical Science ¹	3
Natural Science ¹	8
Social and Behavioral Science ¹	12
Senior Project	6
Depth Study	30
Electives	1-34
Total Hours	87-120

Footnotes

¹ Courses that satisfy the general education requirement will fulfill the humanities, social and behavioral science, natural science, and mathematical science requirements. Students pursuing a BS degree are required to complete MATH 125 Calculus I or higher.

Residency

“Residence” is defined as academic credit earned under the auspices of The University of Alabama faculty. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be completed under the guidance of New College LifeTrack. Residence hours consist of The University of Alabama on-campus and online courses, LifeTrack course contracts, and prior learning credit awarded through LifeTrack. Part of the Foundations of Adult Learning course requires students to be on campus for the two-day seminar. Other than that seminar requirement, students are not required to be present on The University of Alabama campus.

Unlimited. Students continue to professional and graduate schools, begin their own businesses, and work in their chosen fields of concentration.

Types of Jobs Accepted

business and industry, education, arts management, sports marketing and recruiting, Peace Corps, Teach for America, Americorps, NGOs, foreign service, and opportunities throughout the non-profit and for-profit sectors

Jobs of Experienced Alumni

audio engineers, physicians, artists, attorneys, musicians, dentists, physical therapists, professors, farmers, real estate developers,

land managers, sports scouts, directors of non-profit organizations, missionaries, teachers, business owners, Peace Corps, Teach for America, Americorps, NGOs, foreign service, and positions throughout the non-profit and for-profit sectors

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center