What makes the Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies different from traditional degree programs?

It combines two unique areas of study to "customize" a major that consists of multiple disciplines. Each Multidisciplinary Studies major looks different from one student to the next. There are no specific course requirements. It is a flexible individualized major that allows students to select courses that will help them meet their academic goals. Depending upon goals and prior credit earned a student can earn a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree with the Multidisciplinary Studies major.

Is Multidisciplinary Studies right for me?

If you answer "yes" to one or more of the following statements, then the Multidisciplinary Studies Major may meet your academic goals and needs:

- I put my degree on hold to start a career or a family, and now I want to finish my degree.
- I have an associate's degree and would like to apply some of those credits to my major and continue in an area of study that complements what I have already learned.
- I used to attend Union College but I now live out of the area and need to finish my degree online; but the online program does not offer the major I was pursuing on campus.
- I am transferring many credits from a subject that Union College does not offer, and I want to apply those credits to a major.
- I’m on the verge of retirement and I’m pursuing this degree for my own personal fulfillment.
- I am an entrepreneur.
- Based on my career goals, I would like to combine two or more areas of study rather than pursue one area of study.
- I plan to take some courses at a local college and I would like to apply those to my major.

How can I determine if the Multidisciplinary Studies Major is not right for me?

If you have not yet established a career, you should consider a degree that will make you the most competitive in the area that you hope to be employed. For example, if you need to find a job in a human services field following graduation, then a B.S. Psychology degree will help you be more competitive in the job market, than a Multidisciplinary major.

If you are pursuing a graduate degree that requires certain course prerequisites, then you should consider a traditional degree program that prepares you to meet those prerequisites.

What is an Academic Cognate and what makes it different from a Major or Minor?

An academic cognate is a discipline of study in an academic area that resembles a major or minor at Union College. What makes a Cognate different from a Major or Minor is that there are no specific course requirements. You can choose to take any course in a chosen Academic Cognate area. This allows you more flexibility as to which courses you take, as long as you meet the prerequisite requirements.

The following are Academic Cognates and respective disciplines in each area:
• **Humanities Cognate** (Art, Communications, English, Foreign and Ancient Languages, Music, Philosophy, Theatre, History, and Religion)
• **Social and Behavioral Sciences Cognate** (Anthropology, Appalachian Studies, Criminal Justice, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology)
• **Natural Sciences and Math Cognate** (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, and Math)

**How many Academic Cognates must I have in my major?**

You must have at least two academic cognates that total 39 credits.

**What Academic Cognates are currently offered 100% online in the uSucceed program?**

Currently a uSucceed student can complete coursework in the following cognates:
- **Humanities Cognate – Social Media Studies**
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences Cognate – Chemical Dependency Counseling**
- **Professional Studies Cognate – Business Studies**

**What are the basic requirements of the Multidisciplinary Studies Major?**

1. In consultation with the Director of Online Studies, students will be assigned a program advisor that will guide the student to completion of the degree. This advisor and student will complete a curriculum plan and submit this to the Director of Online Studies for approval.
2. The Director of Online Studies will submit the proposed curriculum plan to the Union College Registrar’s Office for an audit of transfer coursework for the proposed curriculum plan.
3. A student must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 to submit a curriculum plan proposal in the Multidisciplinary Studies major.
4. Students pursuing the Multidisciplinary Studies major must complete 39 semester credit hours in two of the academic cognates. Of the 39 semester hours for the major minimally 15 semester credit hours must be at the 300 or above level. No more than 9 hours can be earned by independent study. Under normal circumstances, no more than 6 hours can be earned by additional transfer credit while a Union College student admitted to the program.
5. Students must complete a minimum of 120 semester hours, of which at least 30 semester hours must be earned at Union College. Thirty of the last 36 hours must be earned at Union College.