

## Available Titles

*These are the topic titles available from which to choose:*

### Humanities

African-American Studies  
Appalachian Studies  
Asian Studies  
Comparative Literatures & Cultures  
Film Studies  
Film, Television & Digital Media  
Folklore & Mythology  
Islamic Studies  
Judaic Studies  
Middle Eastern Studies  
Modern & Classical Language Studies  
Religious Studies

### Math & Natural Sciences

Bio-Physics Studies  
Business Administration of Medicine  
Cognitive Science  
Computational Data Systems Studies  
Ecological Sciences  
Environmental Geoscience  
Environmental Studies  
Forensic Science & Criminology  
Marine Science  
Medical Illustration Studies  
National Resources Conservation & Mgmt.  
Radiation Physics  
Rural Health Studies  
Statistical Analysis & Interpretation  
Studies in Neuroscience

### Social Sciences

Aging & Gerontology  
American Culture Studies  
Community Development

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## Titles (*continued*)

Historical Preservation Studies  
Human Studies  
International Law  
Military Studies  
National Security Policy  
Personnel & Human Resources Studies  
Public Policy Studies  
Social & Behavioral Science  
Urban & Regional Planning

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## Schedule and appointment

Serious candidates with a strong interest in the program should contact the following advisor by email to schedule an appointment.

Jennifer Garlin, [jennifer.garlin@uky.edu](mailto:jennifer.garlin@uky.edu)

### Bring the following to your appointment:

- A list of courses you have taken which relate to your topic.
- A list of related courses you plan to take.
- The name of at least one potential faculty advisor. Remember, an acceptable advisor must be a full-time regular faculty member, not a graduate student or a part-time instructor.

*Unlock your future with a  
College of Arts and  
Sciences*



# Topical Studies Major



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## The College of Arts & Sciences Topical Studies Major

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The topical major is designed for students whose interests cut across traditional departmental and college lines and who wish to design their own programs of study.

Topical studies is the only selective admissions program within the College of Arts & Sciences. A cumulative grade point average of 2.5 is required for application to the program.

Each program must have clearly-defined objectives which give focus and coherence to the courses chosen. The intent and range of these objectives vary with the individual.

Topical majors include programs specifically geared to some professional objective, preparation for the study of law or medicine; or they might encompass programs which seek to explore some topic in depth, using a variety of related university offerings like public policy. Often they are areas offering minors and not majors such as African-American Studies, Film Studies, or Middle Eastern Studies.

To complete the topical studies degree requirements the university must have sufficient interdisciplinary course offerings in the area to be studied. These courses should be chosen with the help of a faculty advisor.

Topical Studies majors are growing in popularity around the country and provide graduates the unique opportunity to discuss their undergraduate studies in depth with graduate schools and potential employers.

## Topical Studies Major Requirements

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- A minimum of 30 hours to be completed upon acceptance into the topical studies program, hours earned in the semester of acceptance are applied.
- All UKCore requirements must be satisfied.
- All College of Arts & Sciences course and hour requirements must be satisfied. There are three *hour* requirements for any A&S degree.
  - ◇ Both BA& BS degrees require 120 hours minimum earned hours.
  - ◇ Both BA & BS degrees require 90 hours of A&S coursework.
  - ◇ The BA degree requires 39 hours of 300+ level coursework; and the BS degree requires 60 hours of science and math coursework.
- A Major Requirements Plan (MRP) lists those courses which the student and the advisor select to complete the area of study. The MRP must include:
  - ◇ A total of 42 hours of courses at the 200+ level.
  - ◇ At least 24 of the 42 hours must be in courses at or above the 300-level.The MRP cannot include:
  - ◇ Any course taken electively as pass/fail.
- The senior year the student must complete a comprehensive paper or project, that serves to integrate the material studied. Prior to the start of any significant work, the topic must be approved by the student's faculty advisor and the associate dean.

## Frequently Asked Questions About the Topical Studies Major

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### I've taken lots of classes, can I declare a topical major?

*You must complete 30 hours after you are accepted into the topical studies program. Even if you've taken 42 hours that could be used toward a topic, you must complete 30 hours toward the BA/BS degree once accepted.*

### Do I have to take foreign language?

*Yes, the topical studies major is only offered through the College of Arts & Sciences. Every degree offered (BA or BS) requires completion of the college foreign language requirement.*

### How do I find a faculty advisor?

*The best place to start is with your previous instructors and then with the departmental websites. Look for departments offering the courses you are most interested in taking. Generally, the specialties and/or research areas are listed on either the departmental or professor's site. The faculty advisor must be a full-time regular faculty member.*

### How is topical studies different from other majors?

*Unlike other majors, which have pre-major or core requirements, the topical studies major requirements are completely up to you and your faculty advisor.*

### Do the classes have to be in the Arts & Sciences?

*Not necessarily, to graduate with a degree from A&S, you must complete at least 90 "A&S" hours, beyond this, your courses can come from any department or college on campus.*