

A Case for Multidisciplinary Studies

In grade school, a lot of us didn't have much choice as to what we were able to study. We may have been able to elect to enroll in Spanish or French III, choose from a variety of AP or Dual-Credit courses, but what designated our true course of study and the classes we took were a consequential result of what subjects required standardized tests and more concisely, what topics and focus areas of those subjects would be heavily present on said test. After years of not much academic decision making, we're finally forced to choose one discipline that we want to study for four years, at the ripe age of 17 or 18. I couldn't consider myself more fortunate enough than to study Multidisciplinary Studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio. With a list of forty-one different focus areas to choose from, I decided to study Environmental Science, English, and History.

The people I was privileged enough to interact, work, laugh, problem solve, and brainstorm with are as diverse as my education itself. Within a Multidisciplinary Studies student's journey and curriculum is an equally multifaceted opportunity for academic challenges that warrant self-reflection, personal growth, and above all – a unique ability to cohesively adapt to and market an individualized degree that possess both broad-ranging and specific skills and abilities. Because of my diverse education and accessible degree plan, my course of study was not fulfilled by only completing Algebra I and Introduction to Literature. Rather, I enrolled in advanced math and sciences, literature, and writing courses that further enhanced my skill sets, all the while presenting interesting and fulfilling challenges that solidified my love for learning and evolving. I often wonder what my chosen career would have been if I would have only studied Environmental Science, English, or History. Would I still have a great desire to become a successful and inspirational paralegal, or even future lawyer? If I were to have only studied any one of my three focus areas, the world wouldn't quite feel like my oyster. Instead, I would be grasping at straws trying to stand out amongst the thousands of other English, History, or Environmental Science majors that were applying to the same job.

My degree in Multidisciplinary Studies has allowed me to breathe and to think clearly of what I really want in life. I am more than happy with my decision, and also proud, to have studied a range of disciplines that required an even more reaching range of skills that lead me to a decision instead of an ultimatum – to pursue a career as an administrative and technical writing professional.