



BEN

INTERACTIVE DIGITAL STUDIES

ABOUT MY MAJOR

Interactive Digital Studies is a multimedia communications major. It's unique and the set up allows you to learn a variety of disciplines while still delving into your specific interests. I see it as being tailored to fit your interests however you need it to. There's a variety of different bundles to choose from. Those are like focus areas and you're able to choose two of them.

CHOOSING MY MAJOR

I was Exploratory for a semester until I heard about IDS. It was set up perfect for me, because it helped me pursue my passion in audio engineering while also allowing me to expand on my interest in digital media and art. Talking to my advisors was really helpful. Because I was Exploratory I was open to anything. IDS having the music technology bundle as an option was a clear sign that this was the right major for me.

SKILLS

A strong commitment and work ethic are important. You're tackling a new field and there is lots to cover with this major. You want to fully commit to learning these new topics that you wouldn't necessarily see yourself trying out, like coding and color scheming. Those are two very different things and each student may find their own challenges within those. I didn't think that I'd be doing CSS and HTML coding, and now I tutor for it in the library. There might be things you are hesitant about, but if you commit yourself and work hard you'll find new skills you might not have expected.

You want to be able to fully flesh out your creative ideas when you take on these very expressive and artful projects. Success isn't necessarily objective as an A or a B on a test when it comes to art and digital expression.

INTERNSHIPS

I interned with Iowa Public Radio. I did some audio work within their music library, expanding on and editing metadata for songs that would go on the radio and be stored in their library, as well as producing shows that would be aired weekly on top of writing content for them. I wrote an article about a local performance that was featured online. It helped me utilize all of the skills that I had practiced, working on my computer and working with audio engineering and different writing capacities. But it really brought it into a professional setting into an office where I was able to work with other professionals in the field, and really get their feedback on developing a product that we're all happy with. Some other internships people have done would be working with professional advertising companies, whether in the design and art field for them, or marketing. I also know classmates who have done video and photography for camps or for specific organizations.

CAREERS

I've had some experience in radio so I'm looking for positions with radio or working with audio technology. I really want to do something within music production, broadcasting, live performances, or even videography, which are all skills that I honed in on during college. I really enjoy working with and exploring all different types of music, and it's something that I feel very passionate about.

I love exploring different types of genres and sounds that I can share with people. I have classmates who are looking into different fields based on their unique skill sets. Many of them are interested in digital art and working in graphic design and website development. There's even some robotics and writing specialists. There are so many options!