Can a student be admitted into the major when entering the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences?
No. The change to the major evolves after a student finds his or her interest diverging from the current major, and when an idea of a new educational objective is emerging.

What are the requirements for the major?
See Declaration of Intent

What is the purpose of the major?
The primary purpose of the Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) major is to provide students with an opportunity to develop a set of courses around interests that are not well addressed by other majors in the college.

As is the case for other majors, the student should define educational goals and a set of courses that will meet these goals. Generally, students should be drawing courses from across multiple disciplines. It also is expected that the courses taken will move from general introductory courses to advanced courses with greater focus and depth.

What are some examples of how students have used the major?
Science and art; music and business management/entrepreneurship; food science and marketing; sports, nutrition, business and education; education/law/psychology, viticulture and business, international and environmental planning; pre-med and engineering; biology and animal science.

Can a student have two majors including IDS as one?
No, but students can complete one or more minor(s). Cornell Concurrent Degrees are not permitted with IDS.

What steps are required to change into the major?
A faculty advisor willing to help with the proposed program must be identified by the student. Students may begin the conversation with their current advisor. The educational program proposal (Declaration of Intent) will be submitted to the Advising Coordinator, Lisa Ryan, 140 Roberts Hall.

Does the major have learning outcomes?
Yes. See Achieving IDS Learning Outcomes

Who can advise students majoring in IDS in CALS?
All CALS advisors may, and most have advised in IDS. Students may speak to their current advisor or another CALS advisor in one of the subject areas of interest. CALS Student Services and Advising Coordinator Lisa Ryan have a list of active and interested IDS advisors.

What have IDS majors done after graduating from CALS?
See Post Graduate Report and Survey

What will grad schools think of my major?
Using the Declaration of Intent, Achieving Learning Outcomes, and conversations with his or her advisor, a student will be able to articulate an educational objective, areas of focus, and how courses, activities and experiences support a career goal. Career counseling services are recommended through CALS Student Services, 140 Roberts Hall.

Will employers understand my major?
Using the Declaration of Intent, Achieving Learning Outcomes, and conversations with his or her advisor, a student will be able to articulate an educational objective, areas of focus, and how courses, activities and experiences support a career goal. Career counseling services are recommended through CALS Student Services, 140 Roberts Hall.

Still have questions?
Contact: CALS Student Services 140 Roberts Hall (607)255.2257 cals-studentservices@cornell.edu