

Interdisciplinary Studies Fact Sheet

Why have we included an Interdisciplinary Studies requirement in the GEP?

The Interdisciplinary Studies requirement is an important part of the Integration Level of the GEP, which helps students appreciate how all the things they have learned in college work together to give them a well-rounded, complex set of knowledge and abilities. The IS experience invites students to see how the different kinds of knowledge and perspectives that the disciplines provide can work together to address real-world issues and problems. As a result, students will be able to:

- Identify an issue or question related to the interdisciplinary course(s), and describe what each discipline contributes to an understanding of that issue.
- Explain the benefits of being able to combine these contributions.

How can students satisfy the Interdisciplinary Studies requirement?

This requirement can be met by taking one interdisciplinary course (3 credits or more) or by completing an interdisciplinary major, minor, or certificate.

What are the criteria for an Interdisciplinary course?

The course must be taught by an instructor who has expertise in two disciplines, or team-taught by two instructors with different disciplinary expertise. The disciplines brought together in the course must correspond to two different categories in the Investigation Level of the GEP (Arts, Humanities, Historical Perspectives, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences). The course must be designed to meet the learning outcomes for the IS requirement, and instructors will be asked to collect evidence of student achievement of the outcomes.

What are the criteria for an Interdisciplinary Major, Minor, or Certificate?

The program must include courses in at least two disciplines which correspond to two different categories in the Investigation Level of the GEP (Arts, Humanities, Historical Perspectives, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences). The program must be designed to meet the learning outcomes for the IS requirement, and programs will be asked to collect evidence of student achievement of the outcomes.

How can my course, major, minor, or certificate be recognized as meeting the Interdisciplinary Studies requirement?

There is an application form for an IS course and one for a major, minor, or certificate. Both can be found on the GEP resources page maintained by the Provost's office. You will be asked to explain how your course or program meets the criteria outlined above.