

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BRIDGING DISCIPLINES PROGRAMS SECTION IN THE SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES CHAPTER IN THE *UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG*, 2016-2018

Dean Brent Iverson, in the School of Undergraduate Studies has filed with the secretary of the Faculty Council the following changes to the Bridging Disciplines Programs Section in the *Undergraduate Catalog, 2016-2018*. On September 10, 2015, the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee and the dean approved the proposed changes. The secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of *general* interest to more than one college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the changes on January 6, 2016, and forwarded the proposal to the Office of the General Faculty. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with UT System.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by January 26, 2016.



Hillary Hart, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

Response:

- e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? **No** If yes, explain:

If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? No If yes, explain:

5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date:	NA	Approved by:	N/A
College approval date:	September 10, 2015	Approved by:	UGS Advisory Committee
Dean approval date:	September 10, 2015	Approved by:	Brent Iverson, dean

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

Bridging Disciplines Programs

The Bridging Disciplines Programs (BDPs) support students in becoming versatile thinkers with the skills to collaborate across disciplines and cultures. The BDPs are designed to complement a student's major with an individualized plan of study leading to an interdisciplinary certificate in one of the following areas:

- Children and Society
- Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies
- ~~Cultural Studies~~
- Media, Culture, and Identities
- Digital Arts and Media
- Environment and Sustainability
- Ethics and Leadership in Business
- Ethics and Leadership in Health Care
- Ethics and Leadership in Law, Politics, and Government
- Ethics and Leadership in the Media
- ~~Film Studies~~
- Global Studies
- Human Rights and Social Justice
- Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship
- Museum Studies
- Public Policy
- Social Entrepreneurship and Nonprofits
- Social Inequality, Health, and Policy

Each BDP is overseen by an interdisciplinary faculty panel that sets policy, approves courses, and selects students. Within each broad area, students choose a strand of specialized courses drawn from disciplines across the University. Students are encouraged to use the BDP theme to select courses and integrate degree requirements; to this end, courses taken to fulfill core

curriculum requirements, courses fulfilling major requirements, and electives may also be counted toward a BDP. Participation in undergraduate research, ~~and~~ internships, and creative projects is also central to the design of the BDPs.

All degree-seeking undergraduates at the University are eligible to apply for the BDPs. With careful planning, a BDP can complement most degree plans. However, because the BDPs build on core requirements and electives, students are encouraged to start early in their University careers.

Undergraduates who complete BDP requirements in conjunction with their degree requirements or within one year after earning the degree receive a certificate and recognition on the University transcript; students in integrated undergraduate/graduate programs must complete certificate requirements within one year after they complete their undergraduate degree requirements. A maximum of nine semester hours of the certificate coursework may be taken after the student has earned the undergraduate degree. At least half of the required certificate coursework must be completed in residence at the University.

A student may not earn a certificate in the same field as his or her major, and at least one certificate course must be outside the requirements of the major. However, certificate courses outside the major may be counted toward other degree requirements.

Students should ~~[apply for the certificate]~~ request certification from the BDP office when they apply for graduation or when they complete the certificate program, whichever is later. Transcript recognition is awarded at the end of that semester or summer session.

In order to earn a BDP certificate, students must satisfy the following requirements:

1. At least nineteen semester hours of coursework. The distribution of coursework varies by specialization, and students should consult the BDP office for the requirements of each program. For all specializations, the coursework requirements consist of the following:
 - a. *Foundation Courses*: One to ten hours in foundation courses that introduce key concepts and methodologies related to the interdisciplinary concentration.
 - b. *Connecting Experiences*: Three to nine hours in undergraduate research, internships, and/or ~~[independent]~~ creative project courses that connect students' interdisciplinary concentration to their major.
 - c. *Courses in a Strand*: Six to twelve hours in courses in a strand, which allows students to focus their remaining BDP coursework. Course listings for BDP strands are located on the BDP Web site at <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/bdp/>.
2. A three- to four-page integration essay in which students reflect on what they have learned and accomplished through their BDP experience. These essays will be reviewed by members of a BDP faculty panel. Additional guidelines are available from the BDP advisers.
3. Students must earn a grade of at least C- in each of the courses taken to fulfill BDP requirements and the cumulative grade point average in all courses counting toward a student's BDP certificate must be at least 2.00. All but one of the courses taken to fulfill BDP requirements must be taken on the letter-grade basis.

4. At least half of the required course work in the BDP certificate must be completed in residence at The University of Texas at Austin.
5. Completion of the requirements of a major.

More information about BDPs is available at <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/bdp/>.