



## Bridging Disciplines Programs

- b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes  No   
If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
- c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes  No   
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
- d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes  No   
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

**If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions:**

**If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.**

How many students do you expect to be impacted? n/a

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included: n/a

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

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

**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

Note: THECB Semester Credit Hour Change Form required, download from URL:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/DocFetch.cfm?DocID=2419&format=doc>

If yes, explain:

## 5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date: 5/10/17 Approved by whom: Bridging Disciplines Programs Steering Committee

College approval date: 8/30/17 Approved by whom: Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee

Dean approval date: 8/30/17 Approved by whom: Brent Iverson, Dean, UGS

## PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:<sup>4</sup>

### 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
- Design Strategies
- Digital Arts and Media
- Environment and Sustainability

## Bridging Disciplines Programs

- 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
- Global Studies
- Human Rights and Social Justice
- Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship
- Media, Culture, and Identities
- 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. In order to provide students with an interdisciplinary set of perspectives on their BDP topics, the BDP certificate may include no more than one strand course from a student's major(s), and students will be required to work with a BDP adviser to ensure that the certificate as a whole is interdisciplinary. Participation in undergraduate research, 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. Students using a BDP certificate to satisfy a specific degree requirement should consult their major and BDP advisers about possible restrictions on what courses may simultaneously satisfy BDP and other degree requirements. Because there is significant overlap in program focus and course work, the following majors and BDP certificates may not be combined:

- Students majoring in Arts and Entertainment Technology may not pursue the Digital Arts and Media BDP.
- Students majoring in Environmental Science or Sustainability Studies may not pursue the Environment and Sustainability BDP.
- Students majoring in Communication and Leadership may not pursue the Ethics and Leadership in the Media BDP.
- Students majoring in Public Health or Health and Society may not pursue the Public Health strand of the Social Inequality, Health, and Policy BDP; they may, however, pursue other strands within that program.

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 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:

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1. At least 19 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 creative project courses that connect students' interdisciplinary concentration to their major.
  - c. *Courses in a Strand*: Six to 12 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 website at <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/bdp/> <http://ugs.utexas.edu/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/> <http://ugs.utexas.edu/bdp>.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/degree-program-changes> for detailed explanations.

<sup>2</sup> Submit required Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board forms to the provost's office ([lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu)); downloadable from URL <https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/theCb-forms>

<sup>3</sup> **EXCLUSIVE**: of *exclusive* application and of primary interest only to a single college or school ("no protest" period is *seven calendar days*); **GENERAL**: of *general* interest to more than one college or school (but not for submission to the General Faculty) ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*); *major* legislation must be submitted to the General Faculty for adoption ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*).

<sup>4</sup> The proposed text should be based on the text of the current catalog available at: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/undergraduate/>

**Strike through and replace (with underlines) only the specific language to be changed. Do NOT use track changes, and do not include hyperlinks in the catalog copy.** Submit form electronically to the Office of the General Faculty and Faculty Council at [fc@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:fc@austin.utexas.edu). For questions on completing this section, please contact Victoria Cervantes, [fc@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:fc@austin.utexas.edu), 471-5934 or Brenda Schumann, [brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu), 475-7654.