



OFFICE OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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January 19, 2018

Provost Maurie McInnis
The University of Texas at Austin
MAI 201
Campus Mail Code: G1000

Dear Provost McInnis,

Enclosed for your consideration and action are proposed changes to the Bridging Disciplines Programs in the School of Undergraduate Studies chapter of the *Undergraduate Catalog, 2018-2020* (D 15855-15859). The proposal is classified as being of *exclusive* interest to one college or school and was approved by the Faculty Council on a no-protest basis on January 15, 2018. The authority to grant final approval on of this legislation resides with your office on behalf of President Fenves.

Please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide other information concerning these items.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan W. Friedman".

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

AWF:dlr Enclosures

ec: Lydia A. Cornell, Administrative Program Coordinator, Provost's Office
Michelle K. George, Administrative Manager for Faculty Affairs, Provost's Office
Larry Abraham, Associate Dean, School of Undergraduate Studies
Jennifer K. Morgan, Program Manager, School of Undergraduate Studies

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

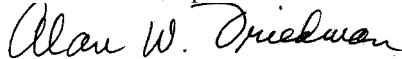
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BRIDGING DISCIPLINES PROGRAMS IN THE SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES CHAPTER IN THE *UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2018-2020*

Dean Brent L. Iverson in the School of Undergraduate Studies has filed with the Secretary of the Faculty Council the following proposal to change the Bridging Disciplines Programs section in the College of Natural Sciences chapter in the *Undergraduate Catalog, 2018-2020*. On May 10, 2017, the Bridging Disciplines Programs Steering Committee approved the proposal, and on August 20, 2017, the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee and Dean Iverson approved it. The Secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of exclusive interest to one college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the proposal on September 14, 2017, and forwarded it 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 the Provost on behalf of the President.

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 15, 2018.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin

Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BRIDGING DISCIPLINES PROGRAMS IN THE SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2018-2020

TYPE OF CHANGE: Academic Change
 Degree Program Change (THECB form required)

PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION: Exclusive General Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACSCOC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

- Is this a new degree program? Yes No
- Is this program being deleted? Yes No
- Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? Yes No
- Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? Yes No

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:

These changes to the catalog copy for the Bridging Disciplines Programs are intended to do the following:

- 1. Add the Design Strategies BDP certificate to the list of options (see separate Impact Statement for the new certificate program).
- 2. Change the name of our existing Bridging Disciplines (BDP) certificate program, “Ethics and Leadership in the Media,” to “Ethics and Leadership in Technology and the Media Bridging Disciplines Program.” This name change is intended to allow the program name to better reflect the existing curriculum for this program, and to attract students who might not realize that this program would provide them with coursework related to ethics and technology. This change affects the School of Undergraduate Studies/Minor and Certificate Programs/Bridging Disciplines Programs section of the 2016-18 Undergraduate Catalog.¹
- 3. Better explain how the BDP requirements may interact with major and other degree requirements. Specifically, we add language about the limitation in BDP certificates on how many courses from a student’s major may be counted, in order to ensure the interdisciplinary nature of each student’s certificate. We also indicate that students using a BDP certificate to satisfy a specific degree requirement (e.g. a minor/certificate requirements within the BSA degree in Natural Sciences) should consult their major and BDP advisors to determine what restrictions there may be on courses that may simultaneously fulfill BDP and other degree requirements.
- 4. Explicitly note certain majors which may not be combined with specific BDP certificates or strands due to too much overlap in curriculum and focus. In the past, these restrictions have been noted on our web site and in students advising materials, and we would like to make the restrictions more transparent to students through the catalog.

3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES: (Please check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in other colleges | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in proposer’s college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges | <input type="checkbox"/> Flags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course in the core curriculum | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in course sequencing for an existing program | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses that have to be added to the inventory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in admission requirements (external or internal) | <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office) | |

4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE:

- a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes No
If yes, then how would you do so?

- 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:	May 10, 2017	Bridging Disciplines Programs Steering Committee
College approval date:	August 30, 2017	Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee
Dean approval date:	August 30, 2017	Brent Iverson, Dean, Undergraduate Studies

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
- Design Strategies
- 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 Technology and 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 Technology and 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:

1. At least ~~[49]~~ 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 creative project courses that connect students' interdisciplinary concentration to their major.

- c. *Courses in a Strand*: Six to ~~[12]~~ 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 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>.
