

## Proposal for Assessment of Interdisciplinary Studies Programs

This assessment plan is proposed for the following sequences in the Interdisciplinary Studies program.

- Interdisciplinary Studies Major: Individualized Sequence
- Interdisciplinary Studies Major: Multidisciplinary Sequence
- Interdisciplinary Studies Minor: Individualized Sequence

Each of these sequences is intended to help students accomplish two primary goals.

- The Interdisciplinary Studies program enables students to construct individualized programs of study that differ from traditional major or minor programs in order to achieve specific educational and/or career goals.
- The Interdisciplinary Studies program enables students to achieve cognitive and affective learning outcomes beyond those associated with traditional programs.
  - Cognitive learning outcomes include critical thinking, problem solving, contextual understanding, and ability to integrate disciplinary perspectives.
  - Affective learning outcomes include increased self-confidence, sense of empowerment, respect for differences, and ability to work on a team.

### Assessment of Major or Minor Sequence in Achieving Educational and Career Goals

- Approximately one year after graduation, Interdisciplinary Studies majors will receive a request to evaluate their experience at Illinois State University. This evaluation (administered by the university) includes items regarding their major and is signed by the Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator.
- Approximately two years after completion of the program, a telephone interview or an e-mail questionnaire will be used to evaluate recent graduates' perception of the effectiveness of their major or minor in preparing them to achieve their career goals. The Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator will conduct this evaluation.
- Approximately five years after graduation, Interdisciplinary Studies majors will receive a request to evaluate their experience at Illinois State University. This

evaluation (administered by the university) includes items regarding their major and is signed by the Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator.

### Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

- The Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator will conduct a qualitative review of students' portfolios documenting the accomplishment of learning objectives identified in the rationale presented in support of the major/minor proposal.
  - An Interdisciplinary Studies major or minor proposal includes a plan of study and a rationale supporting the proposed plan of study. In the rationale students identify specific learning objectives they wish to accomplish by completing the major/minor, as well as how each course in the plan of study will contribute to meeting those objectives.
  - Upon completion of the major/minor, students are required to submit a portfolio including the most important work from each major/minor course and their assessment of its value in accomplishing their learning objectives.
- Approximately two years after completion of the program, a telephone interview or an e-mail questionnaire will be used to measure recent graduates' perception of cognitive and affective learning outcomes associated with their major or minor. The Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator will conduct this evaluation.

### Threshold of Expectation

- It is expected that assessment of student portfolios will evidence accomplishment of learning objectives identified in the rationale presented in support of the major/minor proposal in the majority of cases as perceived by evaluators.
- It is expected that the majority of respondents to telephone interview or email questionnaire will respond to questions of cognitive and affective learning outcome questions with a rating of Satisfactory or higher on a Likert-type scale.

### Assessment of Program

- The Interdisciplinary Studies Coordinator and the Assistant Provost meet annually to review assessment results and make changes as necessary.