

**Institutional Effectiveness**  
**2023-2024**

**Program:** Interdisciplinary Studies BS

**College and Department:** College of Interdisciplinary Studies, School of Interdisciplinary Studies

**Contact:** Steve Frye

**Mission:**

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies is a university-wide academic unit whose mission is to provide innovative, high quality educational opportunities in response to changing needs of the diverse population within TTU's service area and beyond.

**Attach Curriculum Map (Educational Programs Only):**

Attached Files: See Appendix 1

**SLO 1: Critical Thinking & Leadership Development**

**Define Outcome:**

Interdisciplinary Studies students will be able to demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to engage in critical thinking and leadership development measured through the Senior Exit Exam.

**Assessment Methods:**

*Senior Exit Exam:* The Senior Exit Exam is administered to every student who graduates from TTU, with the exception of non-traditional students. This assessment evaluates students in the area of critical thinking. Scores are aggregated by major and reported annually. The California Critical Thinking Test is a well-tested measure of critical thinking, and is accepted by the University as a whole. (It must be noted that the exception of Non-traditional student scores is a university policy and not one of the SOIS. The exemption leads to the exclusion of over 40% of our majors from the data. It's our goal to work toward the inclusion of all SOIS students.) The School of Interdisciplinary Studies uses the Senior Exit Exam to evaluate majors in Critical Thinking.

*Senior Capstone Project Assessment Rubric:* The Senior Capstone course is required of all Interdisciplinary Studies majors. Each student must complete either a 6000 word research paper or a real-world project that integrates the two academic concentration areas. Faculty members complete the rubric on each student that completes the course, entering a score based on the rubric. The scores are combined to get an overall score for each semester's cohort of students.

Data from the rubric is used to assess overall preparedness for the senior project, and student

development in critical thinking, information seeking, and analysis. Data is also used in program evaluation to assess areas of needed improvement. A score of 2.5 is adequate, 3.0 is considered acceptable, 3.5 advanced, and 4.0 stellar.

**Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):**

The goal is to have an increasing score in the Exam annually, and to meet or exceed the university average score.

**Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:**

1.A Experiential Learning,1.D High Impact Practices,2.B Research, Scholar, Intellect, and Creativity

**Results and Analysis:**

**Senior Exit Exam Outcomes**

	2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024	
COLLEGE	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*
School of Interdisciplinary Studies	72.0	92	72.7	86	72.3	144	71.7	89	71.5	77
Agriculture & Human Sciences	72.0	117	71.7	137	72.8	85	71.6	108	71.9	88
Arts & Sciences	76.0	117	74.8	105	75.3	283	76.2	242	76.2	261
Business	73.0	269	73.2	246	73.0	252	71.6	284	73.4	298
Education	72.0	247	71.4	259	72.9	146	71.4	347	71.6	356
Engineering	78.0	404	78.2	421	78.6	427	78.7	403	77.6	419
Fine Arts	73.0	46	74.3	39	74.5	19	76.4	38	72.0	57
Interdisciplinary Studies	73.0	137	73.0	140	72.5	142	72.3	147	72.9	131
Nursing	75.0	105	73.8	90	75.4	98	75.0	83	73.7	112
TTU Average	75.0	1422	74.4	1445	75.2	1457	74.3	1652	74.4	1722
CCTST National Average	74.0		74.0		73.3		73.3		72.8	

**Senior Capstone Assessment Rubric: Total of all sections of LIST 4995**

Area	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
Information Seeking	3.51	3.37	3.67	3.57	3.26	3.32	TBD	3.4
Analysis	3.29	3.42	3.38	3.24	3.23	3.25	TBD	3.2
Critical thinking	3.3	3.34	3.39	3.21	3.25	3.17	TBD	3.36

### **Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:**

LIST 3000 – Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies was approved by the university curriculum committee as a permanent courses in the SoIS.Offered in Spring 2024 with 10 students.

### **SLO 2: Program of Study & Capstone Project**

#### **Define Outcome:**

Each Interdisciplinary Studies student will develop a program of study that integrates learning from two academic emphasis areas, and demonstrates that integration through a senior-level capstone project.

#### **Assessment Methods:**

*Program of Study:* Each student will develop and complete an interdisciplinary program of study that draws from two academic areas.

*Senior Capstone Project Assessment Rubric:* Each student will complete the Culminating Project course during his/her senior year. The Senior Capstone course is required of all Interdisciplinary Studies majors. Each student must complete either a 6000 word research paper or a real-world project that integrates the two academic concentration areas.

Faculty members complete the rubric on each student that completes the course, entering a score based on the rubric. The scores are combined to get an overall score for each semester's cohort of students.

Data from the rubric is used to assess overall preparedness for the senior project, and student development in research question development, analysis, integration and synthesis of concentration areas, documentation, and critical thinking. Data is also used in program evaluation to assess areas of needed improvement.

#### **Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):**

A score of 2.5 is adequate, 3.0 is considered acceptable, 3.5 advanced, and 4.0 stellar.

#### **Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:**

1.A Experiential Learning,2.B Research, Scholar, Intellect, and Creativity,2.C Adult Learners

#### **Results and Analysis:**

Senior Capstone Project Assessment Rubric

<b>Area</b>	<b>Fall 2020</b>	<b>Spring 2021</b>	<b>Fall 2021</b>	<b>Spring 2022</b>	<b>Fall 2022</b>	<b>Spring 2023</b>	<b>Fall 2023</b>	<b>Spring 2024</b>
<b>Analysis</b>	3.29	3.42	3.38	3.24	3.23	3.25	TBD*	3.2
<b>Synthesis</b>	3.23	3.37	3.44	3.27	3.26	3.29	TBD*	3.17

\*Information incomplete at time of report - will be updated.

**Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:**

Fall 2023 – LIST 3000 – Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies was approved by the university curriculum committee as a permanent courses in the SoIS. Offered in Spring 2024 with 10 students.

**SLO 3: Identify Research Question, Address Global Problems, & Communicate Findings**

**Define Outcome:**

Interdisciplinary Studies students will be able to identify and research a topic from various perspectives, address significant problems that impact a global society, and communicate findings effectively.

**Assessment Methods:**

*Senior Capstone Project Assessment Rubric:* The Senior Capstone course is required of all Interdisciplinary Studies majors. Each student must complete either a 6000 word research paper or a real-world project that integrates the two academic concentration areas.

Faculty members complete the rubric on each student that completes the course, entering a score based on the rubric. The scores are combined to get an overall score for each semester's cohort of students.

Data from the rubric is used to assess overall preparedness for the senior project, and student development in research question development, analysis, integration and synthesis of concentration areas, documentation, and critical thinking. Data is also used in program evaluation to assess areas of needed improvement.

Each student will develop a research paper or project that serves to synthesize concepts from the students' two concentration areas.

Each student will successfully complete the research paper or project report to an acceptable level, correctly utilizing appropriate academic sources.

**Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):**

A score of 2.5 is adequate, 3.0 is considered acceptable, 3.5 advanced, and 4.0 stellar.

**Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:**

1.A Experiential Learning, 2.B Research, Scholar, Intellect, and Creativity, 2.C Adult Learners

## Results and Analysis:

### Senior Capstone Project Assessment Rubric

Area	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
Thesis/Problem Question	3.37	3.74	3.62	3.58	3.71	3.57	TBD*	3.75
Information Seeking	3.51	3.37	3.67	3.57	3.26	3.32	TBD*	3.4
Documentation	3.14	3.17	3.29	3.08	3.25	3.12	TBD*	3.22
Product Process	3.27	3.27	3.38	3.31	3.34	3.23	TBD*	3.32

\* Data incomplete at time of report - will be updated.

## Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

In Fall 2020, a new pre-capstone course was offered with the goal of increasing the preparedness of our students for the challenge and rigor of the capstone experience. The new course, LIST 4994, is being offered each semester.

2021-22 was the first full academic year where the LIST 4994 course was required for all IDS majors.

Spring 2022 was the earliest semester where enough of the LIST had the course prior to their project semester. Looking at the Spring 2022 data, there were slight decreases in all areas of the rubric. We have continuously adapted the course to address the needs of our students. In 2023-2024 a total of 96 students enrolled in the LSIT 4994 course. Spring 2024 data is encouraging. We will continue to evaluate impact of LIST 4994 as we move forward.

LIST 3000 – Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies. In Fall 2022 we began developing a new course that will help to more effectively onboard new Interdisciplinary Studies majors. The addition of a new faculty member in Spring 2022 provided an opportunity to better introduce new majors to the concept of interdisciplinarity. The course will focus on interdisciplinary research, intersections between traditional content areas, writing skills, and integrating academic content from diverse academic areas.

A pilot version of the “Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies” course was offered in the Spring semester as a special topics course. Dr. Manginelli worked with students to develop the course, identify the most pressing needs for incoming I.S. majors, and develop most appropriate approaches to meeting those needs through the class. This iterative process for course development, one that focuses heavily on student involvement, has demonstrated potential as a model for future course development in the SoIS.

## List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Interdisciplinary Studies BS Curriculum Map

## Appendix 1: Interdisciplinary Studies BS Curriculum Map

**Appendix 1: Curriculum Map**

Course Number	Course Title	Student Learning Outcomes		
		SLO 1 (Critical Thinking)	SLO2 (Develop POS)	SLO3 (Research Problem)
LIST 4994	Introduction to Capstone	X	X	X
LIST 4995 or PRST 4995	Capstone Project	X	X	X
Emphasis Area 1 (12 Credits)		X	X	
Emphasis Area 2 (12 Credits)		X	X	

Emphasis area courses must be upper division (3000, 4000).

Emphasis area #1 must be different from emphasis area #2.

Students must earn a C or better in LIST 4995 for program completion.