

## **Interdisciplinary Studies BS:2019-2020**

### **Definition of Unit**

#### **Providing Department:**

School of Interdisciplinary Studies

#### **Department/Unit Contact:**

Steve Frye

#### **Mission/Vision Statement:**

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.

### **SoIS Goal 1: Critical Thinking**

#### **Define Goal:**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to engage in critical thinking and leadership development.

#### **Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

- Interdisciplinary Studies majors will develop critical thinking skills, as measurable through the Senior Exit Exam.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

#### **Assessment: Senior Exit Exam**

#### **Frequency of Assessment:**

Annually

#### **Rationale:**

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

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Results: Senior Exit Exam - 2019-20**

**Results:**

	2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020	
COLLEGE	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*
Agriculture & Human Sciences	18.3	90	18.2	122	16.8	111	17.1	158	15.0	92	13.9	143	14.4	75
Arts & Sciences	17.4	333	17.8	324	17.5	304	16.2	403	17.5	223	18.3	225	16.9	113
Business	17.8	174	16.7	193	19.9	137	18.7	308	20.0	236	15.1	238	15.2	142
Education	17.3	178	16.8	357	16.3	300	16.8	337	14.7	116	14.7	232	13.7	176
Engineering	18.0	272	17.2	312	16.0	319	16.0	383	20.6	351	20.3	359	18.6	205
Interdisciplinary Studies	16.8	41	16.6	39	17.5	26	17.0	70	15.8	54*	14.7	96*	14.3	61
Nursing	**		18.7	43	15.8	52	21.0	106	17.1	105	16.6	92	17.2	52
TTU Average	17.6	1551	17.7	1410	16.9	1485	17.0	1767	17.6	1259	16.8	1515	16.1	1365
CCTST National Average	≈ 16.8		≈ 17.1		≈ 17.1		≈ 16.2		≈ 16.2		≈ 15.4		≈ 15.4	

New Data Available - by Major

2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N
15.2	59	17.0	60	15.1	44	14.6	65	14.5	47

**Attachments:**

## **SoIS Goal 2: Integrated learning**

### **Define Goal:**

Develop a program of study that integrates learning from two academic emphasis areas, and demonstrates that integration through a senior-level capstone project.

### **Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

- Each student will develop and complete an interdisciplinary program of study that draws from two academic areas.
- Each student will complete the Culminating Project course during his/her senior year.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

### **Assessment: Senior Capstone Project Assessment Rubric**

#### **Frequency of Assessment:**

Per Semester

#### **Rationale:**

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

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

### **Results: Senior Capstone Assessment Rubric - 2019-20**

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Area	Thesis/Problem Question	Information Seeking Selecting and Evaluating	Analysis	Synthesis	Documentation	Product Process	Critical thinking
Spring 2015	3.36	3.36	3.17	3.22	3.15	3.17	3.35
Fall 2015	3.59	3.43	3.32	3.38	3.26	3.15	3.26
Spring 2016	3.59	3.39	3.43	3.41	3.39	3.27	3.15
Fall 2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spring 2017	3.66	3.51	3.35	3.51	3.27	3.32	3.51
Fall 2017	3.61	3.56	3.33	3.37	3.51	3.18	3.37
Spring 2018	3.47	3.48	3.36	3.46	3.33	3.33	3.46
Fall 2018	3.6	3.58	3.39	3.48	3.33	3.38	3.44
Spring 2019	3.65	3.24	3.28	3.4	3.18	3.11	3.56
Fall 2019	3.58	3.5	3.26	3.32	3.24	3.3	3.38
Spring 2020							

**Attachments:**

## **SoIS Goal 3: Interdisciplinary Research Project**

### **Define Goal:**

Identify and research a topic from various perspectives, address significant problems that impact a global society, and communicate findings effectively.

### **Intended Outcomes / Objectives:**

- 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.

DRILL DOWN-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

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