

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE – INSTRUCTIONS INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MAJOR**

The statement of purpose for application to the interdisciplinary studies major should explain the issues, problems, and ideas you want to examine in your program of study. Describe how you will integrate classes from multiple disciplines into a unified and coherent course of study. The principle of integration can be historical, regional, thematic, or problem-focused. Make certain that you develop your ideas adequately and that you present them coherently and clearly.

Check with the IDS Coordinator for information on how the Writing Center can help you develop your statement of purpose by working with tutors who are familiar with the application requirements. Faculty members and the IDS website can provide samples of programs and essays.

Your two- to three-page essay (500-750 words) should address the following questions:

1. What is the proposed title for your program? Develop a program title that concisely describes the focus of study.
2. What is the issue, problem, or area of intellectual concern that will be the focus of your interdisciplinary major?
3. Why do existing major/minor combinations not meet your needs?
4. How will you integrate courses from two or, preferably, three or more disciplines to create a unified, coherent program of study?
5. What are your learning objectives and how will the proposed courses enable you to meet these objectives?
6. What will be the topic of your senior thesis or project that will fulfill the capstone requirement?
7. If you will include any experiential learning components in your program of study, e.g. an internship or field work, or if you will include study abroad in your major, discuss how these experiences will add to your understanding of the major.
8. What are your future plans and how will your individualized major help you succeed in these plans?