

Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Courses

The General Education curriculum includes both courses based in selected academic disciplines and interdisciplinary courses. Discipline-based courses in this curriculum are proposed and usually staffed by individual academic departments. Interdisciplinary courses are proposed by individual faculty members and are not "housed" in a particular academic department.

The core of options from which students will select their discipline-based courses is to be developed on the basis of the objectives delineated in the curricular proposal. Courses comprising the majority of options in each distribution area should not be courses designed to meet requirements for an academic major. It should be assumed that students taking these courses will have little prior familiarity with the discipline (beyond the normal expectations for admission to the college). Furthermore, these courses should be designed for students who are studying in an academic major from another department, and should generally be considered as the only course the student will take in the discipline.

Students majoring in a discipline closely associated with a particular distribution area may well present courses in their academic major which can be considered to overlap this General Education requirement. In other words, even though the core of options does not include higher level courses, or those designed specifically for an academic major, students who take "major" courses in the distribution area may still have these count toward meeting their General Education requirement. Overlap of this nature is permitted within the guidelines established in "Parameters for the Curriculum."