

Interdisciplinary

An interdisciplinary program is one which combines or involves two or more academic, scientific, or artistic disciplines or fields of study. Interdisciplinary programs represent an organizational unit that crosses traditional boundaries between academic disciplines or schools of thought. As such, an interdisciplinary program utilizes methods and insights of several established disciplines or traditional fields of study. Interdisciplinary programs most often are identified when two or more disciplines pool their approaches and modify them so that they are better suited to gaining new knowledge or to meet societal or scientific needs.

An interdisciplinary program may be established in order to facilitate the study of subjects which have some coherence, but which cannot be adequately understood from a single disciplinary perspective. An interdisciplinary program does not lay claim to a universally recognized core of knowledge as, for example, physics or mechanical engineering do, but rather draws on existing disciplinary knowledge while always transcending it via integration.

At OSU, examples of the 20 recognized interdisciplinary programs at the undergraduate level include: BA, BS in American Studies, BS in Bioresource Research, and BS in Natural Resources. At the graduate level there are currently 11 identified interdisciplinary programs, including: MA, MS, PSM, PhD in Environmental Sciences, MAIS in Interdisciplinary Studies, and MPP, PhD in Public Policy. Recognized interdisciplinary programs can include degree, certificate, and minor programs.

A summary of the OSU identified interdisciplinary programs are listed in the OSU General Catalog 2017-2018 on pages 466-467, and on the web at the following link:

<http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/InterdisciplinaryOverview.aspx>

Source: OSU Office of Academic Programs and Assessment (glb; 1-18-18)