

**Institutional Effectiveness
2024-2025**

Program: Interdisciplinary Studies BS

College and Department: College of Interdisciplinary Studies, 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
(2023-24 data is included - 2025 data is not yet available)

	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025	
COLLEGE	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*
School of Interdisciplinary Studies	72.7	86	72.3	144	71.7	89	71.5	77	72.8	67
Agriculture & Human Sciences	71.7	137	72.8	85	71.6	108	71.9	88	72.8	95
Arts & Sciences	74.8	105	75.3	283	76.2	242	76.2	261	75.9	252
Business	73.2	246	73.0	252	71.6	284	73.4	298	73.1	232
Education	71.4	259	72.9	146	71.4	347	71.6	356	71.9	319
Engineering	78.2	421	78.6	427	78.7	403	77.6	419	78.1	469
Fine Arts	74.3	39	74.5	19	76.4	38	72.0	57	74.9	42
Interdisciplinary Studies	73.0	140	72.5	142	72.3	147	72.9	131	73.4	102
Nursing	73.8	90	75.4	98	75.0	83	73.7	112	73.4	111
TTU Average	74.4	1445	75.2	1457	74.3	1652	74.4	1722	74.8	1620
CCTST National Average	74.0		73.3		73.3		72.8		72.8	

* Individual college data not available at time of report.

Senior Capstone Assessment Rubric: Average of all sections of LIST 4995

Area	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2025
Information Seeking	3.51	3.37	3.67	3.57	3.26	3.32	3.38	3.4	3.38
Analysis	3.29	3.42	3.38	3.24	3.23	3.25	3.17	3.2	3.32
Critical thinking	3.3	3.34	3.39	3.21	3.25	3.17	3.09	3.36	3.26

Scores have improved since Fall 2022.

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

We will continue to revise and adapt the LIST 4994: Pre-Capstone course.

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:

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

Area	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2025
Analysis	3.29	3.42	3.38	3.24	3.23	3.25	3.17	3.2	3.32
Synthesis	3.23	3.37	3.44	3.27	3.16	3.29	TBD*	3.17	3.23

Results continue to show improvement since Fall 2022.

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

We will continue to revise and adapt the LIST 4994 Pre-Capstone course.

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 - to be updated 5/23/25**

Area	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2025
Thesis/Problem Question	3.37	3.74	3.62	3.58	3.71	3.57	3.25	3.75	3.6
Information Seeking	3.51	3.37	3.67	3.57	3.26	3.32	3.38	3.4	3.38
Documentation	3.14	3.17	3.29	3.08	3.25	3.12	3.18	3.22	3.26
Product Process	3.27	3.27	3.38	3.31	3.34	3.23	3.14	3.32	3.41

Results continue to be good since the inception of the LIST 4994: Pre-Capstone course. Recent revisions have focused on Documentation and Process.

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

We will continue to revise and adapt the LIST 4994: Pre-Capstone course.

Summative Evaluation:

The LIST 4994: Pre-Capstone course rubric is a key assessment for all three SLOs. We will continue to revise and adapt the rubric to ensure it is providing good assessment of student learning.

Assessment Plan Changes:**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Curriculum Map

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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.