

# Report to Senate: Interdepartmental (INTD) Courses

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## The INTD Designation

“The Interdepartmental designation is used for courses that are truly interdisciplinary or interdepartmental; courses under the sponsorship or scope of a single department are given the departmental designation (e.g., History 195).”

*Senate “Guidelines for Submitting Course Proposals (Nov. 1995, updated 2002)”*  
(<http://www.senate.uconn.edu/GUIDE1.html> as retrieved on Jul 15, 2007)

Some interdisciplinary teaching initiatives of faculty falls entirely within the scope of their department’s courses; others are appropriate for cross-listing (e.g. when two departments agree that the particular course fits equally comfortably within both departments’ disciplinary course offerings). The interdepartmental (INTD) designation is another option for interdisciplinary teaching initiatives and may be adopted when at least two departments share “ownership” of a course. Six of the current INTD courses with catalog listings can be classed as collaborations of this type.

The INTD course designation is currently home for courses associated with a wide range of programs designed for University of Connecticut undergraduates, whatever their major and school or college affiliation. Such significant undergraduate programs include the University of Connecticut Honors Program, First Year Experience, and Senior Year Experience. Some other programs have important constituent courses among INTD offerings: Study Abroad, Urban Semester, the Individualized Major Program, the Diversity minor, and Linkage through Language.

## Oversight of INTD Courses

Administrative responsibility for INTD courses rests with the Provost, who has delegated course oversight arrangements to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. In 2006, the previous Vice Provost (Dr. Makowsky) stated three goals for INTD courses:

- that INTD should represent a course category available for the promotion of interdisciplinary collaboration across schools and colleges;
- that faculty review of INTD course proposals should ensure that INTD courses achieve the quality expected of other courses across the University; and
- that a process of INTD course approval should be agreed across the University as the acceptable means to provide oversight for INTD courses.

These goals continue to guide the administration and faculty review of INTD courses.

## Administration of INTD Courses

Since 2004 the Individualized & Interdisciplinary Studies Program (IISP) has administered INTD courses. IISP is part of Undergraduate Education & Instruction, overseen by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. IISP administrators provide support for a faculty review committee and coordination with the Office of the Registrar and INTD-teaching programs to ensure that course descriptions and relevant information are up-to-date. In 2005 a process of consultation and reform was initiated to enhance faculty review arrangements for INTD course proposals so that they would be more consistent with the Vice Provost’s goals for INTD courses.

## Faculty Review of INTD Courses

An INTD C&CC was created in Fall 2006 as part of arrangements, initiated by the Vice Provost and developed in consultation with Senate, to provide better, appropriate oversight of interdepartmental courses and other university-wide courses taught under the designation “interdepartmental.” In January 2007, Senate Scholastic Standards Committee was asked by the Vice Provost to recommend a revised INTD course approval process. In Fall 2007 Senate Scholastic Standards Committee proposed recommendations to the Provost. In January 2008 Senate approved the recommendations for a revised undergraduate interdepartmental (INTD) course approval process, creation of a new University Interdisciplinary Courses Committee (UICC), and eventual recategorization of some existing INTD courses into a new catalog subject heading. The proposed new designation, provisionally labeled “University” or “UNIV,” would encompass some existing courses that serve important functions in university-wide academic and academic-related programs.

In 2009 UICC was formed. After a consultation process involving Senate Executive, Senate Nominating Committee, and the Chairs of Senate Scholastic Standards Committee and Curricula & Courses Committee, the Provost appointed the voting members of UICC: Dr. Gerry Gianutsos, School of Pharmacy, was appointed UICC Chair; faculty members (and alternates) from each undergraduate school and college were nominated by their deans; and an additional CLAS representative was nominated by her dean as a representative from a regional campus. In addition, ex-officio members of the UICC (non-voting) were chosen to represent academic and student affairs units with existing INTD courses, as well as other stakeholders.

The UICC serves to clarify and advise faculty members and staff who propose interdisciplinary and/or program-based, non-departmental courses on the approvals required. The committee provides oversight of INTD (and, once a new subject designation is introduced, UNIV) courses. UICC reviews course proposals prior to their consideration (as required) for schools, colleges, and Senate.

**INTD Activities (2009/10 and 2010/11)**

The UICC met seven times in AY09-10; it has met eight times during the 2010/11 academic year and is scheduled to meet twice more in Spring 11 for a total of ten meetings.

In AY 09/10, three INTD special topics courses were considered and approved: INTD 3995 Introduction to Public Health (for Spring 2010 and Fall 2010) and INTD 3995 Introduction to Epidemiology (for Fall 2010). In AY 10/11, one new course was approved: INTD 3991 Interdisciplinary Internship – Field Experience; three INTD special topics courses were considered and approved: INTD1998 The Holster First Year Project, INTD 3985 Career Planning- Stamford Campus (for Spring 2011), and INTD 3991 Interdisciplinary Internship- Stamford Campus (for Spring and Summer 2011); and, one course proposal was considered and not approved. Existing INTD courses operated in the transitional manner approved by the Vice Provost for AY0809. Experimental courses previously reviewed and approved by the INTD C&CC were permitted to continue to be offered after administrative review. The UICC agreed that transitional arrangements would end in Spring 2011: INTD courses taught under experimental designations (e.g. special topics) would need to be repropose as new courses for offering in Summer 2011 and later.

During the previous two academic years, the UICC has made progress toward clarifying the INTD designation and toward creating a standalone UNIV designation. The UICC has created guidelines for distinguishing between INTD courses -- those that originate in academic departments -- and UNIV-type courses -- those that originate in university units that report to the chief academic officer and are not academic departments nor academic programs located in schools and colleges. To be consistent with university practice of course review by two faculty bodies, the UICC recommended to Senate Scholastic Standards Committee that UNIV courses receive faculty advisory body approval prior to coming to the UICC. The Senate Curricula and Courses Committee has been kept informed of the work of the UICC through its ex officio membership.

Currently, the UICC is working on further clarifying policy around UNIV-type courses -- including grading policy and finalizing the course approval review process-- in order to bring a full proposal for the creation of the UNIV designation to the UConn community. At present, the Senate Scholastic Standards Committee is considering a recommendation by Vice Provost Douglas Cooper to change the composition of the UICC to add a student and staff voting member; at the recommendation of the Senate in 2008, the committee is currently comprised only of faculty nominated by school and college deans and appointed by the Provost.

**UICC members in AY09-10 and AY10-11:**

Faculty (voting members and alternates)		
Chair	SOP/PHAR SCI	Gerry Gianutsos
Member	CANR/NUSC	Nancy Rodriguez*
Member	CANR/NUSC	Hedley Freake**
Member	CLAS/ SOCI	Richard Rockwell
Member	NEAG/EDCI	David Moss
Member	SFA/ ARTH	Margo Machida*
Member	SFA/MUSI	Peter Kaminsky**
Member	SOB/MKTG	Robert Bird
Member	SOE/ECE	Eric Donkor
Member	SON	Jennifer Telford
Member	SOP/ PHAR Pract.	Michael Gerald
Member	REGIONAL CAMPUS	Ingrid Semaan
Alternate	CANR/NRE	Tom Meyer
Alternate	CLAS/ PSYC	Robert Henning
Alternate	NEAG/EPsy	Melissa Bray
Alternate	SFA/DRAM	Karen Ryker*
Alternate	SFA/DRAM	Adrienne Macki** (Fall)
Alternate	SFA/DRAM	Michael Bradford** (Spr)
Alternate	SOB/ACCT	Larry Gramling*
Alternate	SOB/OPIM	Ramesh Sankaranarayanan**
Alternate	SOE/CSE	Ion Mandoiu
Alternate	SON	Anne Bavier
Alternate	SOP	Brian Aneskievich*
Alternate	SOP	Olga Vinogradova**

Ex-Officio (non-voting members and alternates)		
Member	Enrichment Programs	Lynne Goodstein
Member	Inst. for Student Success	David Ouimette
Member	ITL	Keith Barker
Member	Registrar’s Office	Jeff von Munkwitz-Smith
Member	Senate C&CC	Mike Darre
Member	Student Affairs	Daniel Doerr
Alternate	Enrichment Programs	Margaret Lamb
Alternate	Inst. for Student Success	Steve Jarvi*
Alternate	Inst. for Student Success	Maria D. Martinez**
Alternate	ITL	Catherine Ross*
Alternate	ITL	Kim Chambers**
Alternate	Registrar’s Office	Marianne Buck
Alternate	Senate C&CC	Eric Schultz
Alternate	Senate C&CC	Hedley Freake (Fall ‘10)
Alternate	Student Affairs	Stefanie Landsman*
Alternate	Student Affairs	Sue Sanders**

\* These members and alternates served on the committee AY0910 but will not serve AY1011.

\*\* These members and alternates served on the committee AY1011 but did not serve in AY0910.

**INTD Course Statistics (2009-10, with comparatives for 2008-09)**

Of the 30 INTD courses approved for regular listing in the course catalog in AY09-10, 26 were taught (08-09: 31 and 24 respectively). Eight INTD courses were designated general education courses (as either Ws and/or content area courses).

PeopleSoft listings of INTD course sections (based on data supplied by OIR)

	2009-10		2008-09	
	Sections	Seats	Sections	Seats
First Year Experience Program (INTD 1800, 1810, 1820, 3984 – each 1 cr.)	288	4419	268	4297

Honors Program courses (INTD 1784, 3784 –1 cr., and 3 cr. respectively)	<b>29</b>	<b>484</b>	26	440
Linkage through Language course (INTD 3222 – 1 cr.)	<b>27</b>	<b>177</b>	30	206
Senior Year Experience course [lecture sections] (INTD 4800 – 1 cr.)	<b>2</b>	<b>336</b>	2	356
Departmental- and Program-based courses with individual catalog listings (incl. 1700 [170])	<b>22</b>	<b>237</b>	22	221
Other INTD courses (including experimental, special topics, independent study, study abroad courses)	<b>100</b>	<b>896</b>	80	652
<b>Total</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>6549</b>	428	6172

Every one of UConn's six campuses used at least two INTD courses to offer sections to its students.

2009-2010 instructors of INTD course sections were 32% faculty (tenured, untenured, adjunct), 13% graduate students, and 55% other professionals (08/09: 30%, 15%, 54% respectively).