

Interdisciplinary Programs

Academic Affairs – Curriculum and Programs

CWU Policy 501-12

Effective: February 21, 2018

Policy Review Date: YEAR

Policy Executive: Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs

Responsible Office/Unit: Faculty Senate

Policy Statement:

Applicability:

Content:

Policy

(1) Interdisciplinary programs are typically created to provide varying perspectives on an area of study, combining expertise across departmental and/or college boundaries. These programs provide benefits to students and faculty that include, but are not limited to:

- A. Allowing students and faculty to explore, create, and integrate knowledge that extends the traditional disciplinary boundaries.
- B. Responding to student interests and learning needs demonstrated through repeated individual studies or general studies curricula.
- C. Creating programs that respond to areas of societal need.
- D. Unifying related areas of academic excellence and/or faculty interest.
- E. Fostering communication, collaboration and problem solving across departments.

(2) Governance structure

- A. Program Charter
 - 1. Each program will establish a charter. The charter will:
 - a. Define the mission and objectives of the program.

- b. Establish residence of the program according to the program residence policy (CWU 501-10(3)).
 - c. Address issues particular to the administration of each program in the context of this policy, as needed.
 - d. Create procedure for electing program leadership.
 - e. Define the duties of the program leadership and the number of workload units for overseeing the program.
 - f. Define the criteria for program faculty and affiliate faculty.
2. The charter will be reviewed for currency every three years or more frequently as needed by the program faculty and dean of the college of program residence.

(3) Program Leadership

- A. Eligibility, selection, and term of service.
 1. The leadership must be a member of the program faculty.
 2. The election is approved and the leadership appointed by the dean of the college of residence.
 3. The program leadership will get workload units overseeing the program. The number of units will be determined and approved in consultation with the Dean of the college of residence.

(4) Line of authority

- A. The dean of the college in which the program resides is the chief budgetary and oversight officer for the program. Program leadership report to the dean of the college of program residence.

History:

*Responsibility: Faculty Senate; Authority: Provost/VP for Academic & Student Life; Reviewed/Endorsed by Provost's Council 01/16/2018; Cabinet/UPAC; Review/Effective Date: 08/17/2011; 02/21/2018; Approved by: James L. Gaudino, President
Reformatted and Assigned new Policy Number - Previous Policy CWUP 5-90-070, June 2025*