

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 4417S  
Date of Senate Approval 04/13/17

-----  
Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 41:**

**Change “Optional Interdisciplinary Clusters” to  
“Optional Interdisciplinary Certificates”**

**Effective Date: Fall 2017**

1. **Delete:** On the [Academic Programs](#) page

## Academic Programs

- Optional Interdisciplinary Clusters

## Optional Interdisciplinary Clusters

In addition to the major field of study and optional minor fields of concentration, undergraduate degree-seeking students may also choose to complete one or more interdisciplinary clusters. Constituent courses in interdisciplinary cluster programs approach a topic or issue from multiple disciplinary perspectives and highlight connections between concurrent or consecutive courses comprising the cluster. Undergraduate clusters include an engaged experience such as a cornerstone course, a capstone course, or another high impact educational practice such as UNC Asheville faculty-led study abroad, cross-course projects, undergraduate research, or service learning. Interdisciplinary clusters will be recorded along with majors and minors on the student’s permanent transcript.

Specific requirements for an interdisciplinary undergraduate cluster are as follows:

- A minimum of 4 courses from an approved set of courses
- A minimum of 12 semester hours
- Courses must represent at least two different disciplines (as determined by course prefix) from two different departments
- No more than eight of the required 12 semester hours that a student applies toward an interdisciplinary cluster may have the same course prefix
- No more than 8 hours from a declared major or minor may be applied toward an interdisciplinary cluster
- At least 3 of the 12 hours must be at the 300-400 level.
- All courses used for the cluster must be completed at UNC Asheville.
- HUM 124, 214, 324, 414, LA 178 and 478 may not be included in the list of courses for the cluster
- Students must have a minimum cumulative C (2.0) average on all courses used for the cluster

An Interdisciplinary Cluster is currently available in [Food, Food Systems and Culture](#)

## Declaration of Optional Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Cluster

Students initiate the declaration process by contacting the appropriate cluster coordinator. Together, they complete an Interdisciplinary Cluster Declaration form that is then submitted to the Office of the Registrar in OneStop Student Services. Students are subject to the requirements in effect at the time they formally declare the interdisciplinary cluster. Students are responsible for knowing their cluster requirements and for completing them. In clusters with a designated capstone experience, the declaration must occur before enrolling in the capstone course. In all instances, clusters must be officially declared before the deadline for applying for graduation.

**Replace with:** On the [Academic Programs](#) page

## Academic Programs

- [Optional Interdisciplinary Certificates](#)

### Optional Interdisciplinary Certificates

In addition to the major field of study and optional minor fields of concentration, undergraduate degree-seeking students may also choose to complete one or more interdisciplinary certificates. Constituent courses in interdisciplinary certificate programs approach a topic or issue from multiple disciplinary perspectives and highlight connections between concurrent or consecutive courses comprising the certificate. Undergraduate certificates include an engaged experience such as a cornerstone course, a capstone course, or another high impact educational practice such as UNC Asheville faculty-led study abroad, cross-course projects, undergraduate research, or service learning. Interdisciplinary certificates will be recorded along with majors and minors on the student's permanent transcript.

Specific requirements for an interdisciplinary undergraduate certificate are as follows:

- A minimum of 4 courses from an approved set of courses
- A minimum of 12 semester hours
- Courses must represent at least two different disciplines (as determined by course prefix) from two different departments
- No more than eight of the required 12 semester hours that a student applies toward an interdisciplinary certificate may have the same course prefix
- No more than 8 hours from a declared major or minor may be applied toward an interdisciplinary certificate
- At least 3 of the 12 hours must be at the 300-400 level.
- All courses used for the certificate must be completed at UNC Asheville.
- HUM 124, 214, 324, 414, LA 178 and 478 may not be included in the list of courses for the certificate
- Students must have a minimum cumulative C (2.0) average on all courses used for the certificate
- **The certificate may only be completed in conjunction with the completion of an undergraduate degree at UNC Asheville.**

An Interdisciplinary Certificate is currently available in [Food, Food Systems and Culture](#)

### Declaration of Optional Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Certificate

Students initiate the declaration process by contacting the appropriate certificate coordinator. Together, they complete an Interdisciplinary Certificate Declaration form that is then submitted to the Office of the Registrar in OneStop Student Services. Students are subject to the requirements in effect at the time they formally declare the interdisciplinary certificate. Students are responsible for knowing their certificate requirements and for completing them. In certificates with a designated capstone experience, the declaration must occur before enrolling in the capstone course. In all instances, certificates must be officially declared before the deadline for applying for graduation.

2. **Delete:** On the [Academic Departments, Programs, and Requirements for Majors and Minors](#) page

## Other Programs

- [Interdisciplinary Cluster in Food, Food Systems and Culture](#)

**Replace with:** On the [Academic Departments, Programs, and Requirements for Majors and Minors](#) page

## Other Programs

- [Interdisciplinary Certificate in Food, Food Systems and Culture](#)

### 3. **Delete:** On the [Interdisciplinary Cluster in Food, Food Systems and Culture](#) page

Participating faculty and departments: Lanou (Coordinator) (Health and Wellness); Clarke (Biology); Mathews (Economics); Moorhead (Environmental Studies); Peterson (Sociology and Anthropology); Wasileski (Chemistry); Wingert (Health and Wellness)

The Interdisciplinary Cluster in Food, Food Systems and Culture focuses on developing the student as an informed consumer of food by providing a platform for discussion of what we eat, why we eat, where our food comes from and its journey from production to consumption, and how food affects our bodies, health and lives.

The Food, Food Systems and Culture Cluster requires the completion of a minimum of 4 courses and 12 semester hours as follows. All courses used for the cluster must be completed at UNC Asheville.

At least one course must be chosen from the listing of Food-focused courses. Food-focused courses have food, food systems or food culture as a central theme and consistently offer students an intentionally interdisciplinary experience (e.g. cross-course project or other high impact pedagogical practice). The remaining three or more courses may be chosen from Food-focused or Food-related courses, following the distribution guidelines required of all interdisciplinary clusters. Other courses may be substituted with approval of the cluster coordinator.

#### **Declaration of Interdisciplinary Cluster in Food, Food Systems and Culture**

Students must complete an Interdisciplinary Cluster Declaration form that is signed by the cluster coordinator and submitted to the Office of the Registrar in OneStop Student Services. Students are subject to the requirements in effect at the time they formally declare the cluster. The cluster must be officially declared before the deadline for applying for graduation.

## Food-focused Courses

---

Complete one course from:

- [BIOL 110 - Plants and Humans](#) (3)
- [CHEM 109 - The Food of Chemistry](#) (4)
- [ECON 242 - Economics of Food](#) (3)
- [HWP 225 - Nutrition and Lifestyle](#) (3)
- [HWP 333 - Food Politics and Nutrition Policy](#) (3)

## Food-related Courses

---

The remaining three or more courses may be chosen from Food-focused or Food-related courses, following the distribution guidelines required of all interdisciplinary clusters. Other courses may be substituted with approval of the cluster coordinator.

- [ENVR 358 - Agriculture](#) (4)
- [HWP 455 - Pathophysiology of Chronic Conditions and Illnesses](#) (3)

## Update page heading & Replace with: [Interdisciplinary Certificate in Food, Food Systems and Culture](#)

Participating faculty and departments: Lanou (Coordinator) (Health and Wellness); Clarke (Biology); Mathews (Economics); Moorhead (Environmental Studies); Peterson (Sociology and Anthropology); Wasileski (Chemistry); Wingert (Health and Wellness)

The Interdisciplinary Certificate in Food, Food Systems and Culture focuses on developing the student as an informed consumer of food by providing a platform for discussion of what we eat, why we eat, where our food comes from and its journey from production to consumption, and how food affects our bodies, health and lives.

The Food, Food Systems and Culture Certificate requires the completion of a minimum of 4 courses and 12 semester hours as follows. All courses used for the certificate must be completed at UNC Asheville. **The certificate may only be completed in conjunction with the completion of an undergraduate degree at UNC Asheville.**

At least one course must be chosen from the listing of Food-focused courses. Food-focused courses have food, food systems or food culture as a central theme and consistently offer students an intentionally interdisciplinary experience (e.g. cross-course project or other high impact pedagogical practice). The remaining three or more courses may be chosen from Food-focused or Food-related courses, following the distribution guidelines required of all interdisciplinary certificates. Other courses may be substituted with approval of the certificate coordinator.

### **Declaration of Interdisciplinary Certificate in Food, Food Systems and Culture**

Students must complete an Interdisciplinary Certificate Declaration form that is signed by the certificate coordinator and submitted to the Office of the Registrar in OneStop Student Services. Students are subject to the requirements in effect at the time they formally declare the cluster. The certificate must be officially declared before the deadline for applying for graduation.

## Food-focused Courses

---

Complete one course from:

- [BIOL 110 - Plants and Humans](#) (3)
- [CHEM 109 - The Food of Chemistry](#) (4)
- [ECON 242 - Economics of Food](#) (3)
- [HWP 225 - Nutrition and Lifestyle](#) (3)
- [HWP 333 - Food Politics and Nutrition Policy](#) (3)

## Food-related Courses

---

The remaining three or more courses may be chosen from Food-focused or Food-related courses, following the distribution guidelines required of all interdisciplinary certificates. Other courses may be substituted with approval of the certificate coordinator.

- [ENVR 358 - Agriculture](#) (4)
- [HWP 455 - Pathophysiology of Chronic Conditions and Illnesses](#) (3)

**Impact:** This proposal is to change the program name “Optional Interdisciplinary Clusters” to “Optional Interdisciplinary Certificates”. It also adds language to emphasize the requirement that the undergraduate degree be completed in order for the certificate to be completed.

**Rationale:** The terminology “certificate” is more meaningful to parties external to our campus than the term “cluster”. After research and consultation with UNC General Administration and SACS, it has been determined that we can rename the previously approved “Optional Interdisciplinary Clusters” to “Optional Interdisciplinary Certificates” with little SACS implications as long as the certificate is considered “within baccalaureate”. The certificate cannot be noted as completed unless the baccalaureate degree is earned from UNC Asheville, even if the requirements of the certificate are completed. Language has been added to emphasize this conditional requirement. Note, this language has been highlighted to draw attention to the addition but it will appear without the highlighting in the catalog.

The terminology “certificate” is also used by other institutions in the UNC system. Attached is a listing of the Undergraduate certificate programs at other UNC schools along with their required number of hours.