

Proposing Optional Interdisciplinary Certificates

On May 5, 2016 the Faculty Senate approved UNC Asheville offering Optional Interdisciplinary Clusters (See Senate Document [SD9916S](#)) . On April 13, 2017 the Faculty Senate approved changing the names to Optional Interdisciplinary Certificates (See Senate Document [SD4417S](#)). UNC Asheville currently offers two Interdisciplinary Certificates. Their descriptions can be found at <https://www.unca.edu/certificates>

APC invites our colleagues to submit proposals adding more student options that follow this model. In your proposals please consider the requirements outlined in the senate documents referenced above.

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 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

The impact statement for interdisciplinary certificates must address the impact on faculty and the administration of the certificate.

APC in determining approval will consider multiple factors including the following:

1. is the interdisciplinary certificate supported by participating faculty from more than one department with the approval of the respective department chairs, program directors, and/or Deans?
2. Does the proposal identify a faculty coordinator who will oversee a student's application and the student's successful completion of the certificate? The faculty coordinator is expected to manage course offerings and assign student advisors.
3. Does the proposal outline the application process for student entry into the program?
4. Does proposal outline a strategy for participating faculty to meet to plan, assess the program, and problem-solve?
5. Does the proposal address faculty workload?
6. Does the proposal address impacts to existing course offerings of participating departments?