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| **Assurance of Student Learning Report**  **2023-2024** | | |
| *College of Education and Behavioral Sciences* | | *SLPS – Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies* |
| *Interdisciplinary Studies (558)* | | |
| *Cort Basham, BIS Program Coordinator – Dr. Marguerita Desander, School of Professional Studies Director* | | |
| ***Is this an online program***?  Yes  No  (The BIS \*can\* (not must) be completed 100% online) | Please make sure the Program Learning Outcomes listed match those in CourseLeaf . Indicate verification here  Yes, they match! (If they don’t match, explain on this page under **Assessment Cycle)** | |

**\*\*\* Please include Curriculum Map as part of this document (at the end), NOT as a separate file.**

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| ***Use this page to list learning outcomes, measurements, and summarize results for your program. Detailed information must be completed in the subsequent pages. Add more Outcomes as needed.*** | | | |
| **Program Learning Outcome 1: Students will integrate insights from at least two different disciplines through a culminating senior capstone project in IDST 495/499 Senior Capstone.** | | | |
| **Instrument 1** | **IDST 495 (3.0 Credit Hours) and IDST 499 (1.0 Credit Hour) Senior Capstone Project** | | |
| **Instrument 2** |  | | |
| **Instrument 3** |  | | |
| **Based on your results, check whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1.** | | **Met** | **Not Met** |
| **Program Student Learning Outcome 2: [Add the Program Student Learning Outcome from CourseLeaf here]** | | | |
| **Instrument 1** |  | | |
| **Instrument 2** |  | | |
| **Instrument 3** |  | | |
| **Based on your results, check whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 2.** | | **Met** | **Not Met** |
| **Program Student Learning Outcome 3: [Add the Program Student Learning Outcome from CourseLeaf here]** | | | |
| **Instrument 1** |  | | |
| **Instrument 2** |  | | |
| **Instrument 3** |  | | |
| **Based on your results, check whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 3.** | | **Met** | **Not Met** |
| **Assessment Cycle Plan:** | | | |
| Clarification is in order here. It is likely PLOs do match at this current writing. However, during AY2324, we learned that our single PLO was not sufficient. The BIS Unit worked extremely hard to bring PLOs into line with WKU/SACS requirements and submitted those changes for full CourseLeaf approval in April 2024. Those changes were approved at all levels and now sit with the Faculty Senate for final approval. This will most likely occur at the May 2024 Senate meeting. These changes will take effect AY24-25. | | | |

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| **Program Student Learning Outcome 1** | | | | | | | |
| **Program Student Learning Outcome** | **Program Learning Outcome 1: Students will integrate insights from at least two different disciplines through a culminating senior capstone project in IDST 495/499 Senior Capstone.** | | | | | | |
| **Measurement Instrument 1** | **Senior Capstone Project**  The core text for IDST 395 (a highly recommended but not required course) and IDST 495 courses (Allen F. Repko’s *Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies*) defines interdisciplinary studies as “a cognitive process by which individuals or groups draw on disciplinary perspectives and integrate their insights and modes of thinking to advance their understanding of a complex problem with the goal of applying the understanding to a real-world problem” (28).  The IDST 495 capstone project offers students a culminating opportunity to demonstrate IDST thinking and problem-solving via a robust project based on their own areas of expertise, adequacy, and interest. By employing two or more disciplines aimed at addressing a complex, real-world issue, the capstone project puts core IDST principles and research methods into practice. This capstone project not only shows how individual students can select disciplines relevant to the issue at hand, but also demonstrates the range and depth of work present at both the class and program level. In other words, at the student-level, the project shows IDST skills. At the class and program level, the project shows how BIS students across all 12 emphasis areas ask highly relevant, real-world questions and devise creative, interdisciplinary ways to address them. | | | | | | |
| **Criteria for Student Success** | A grade of C or higher | | | | | | |
| **Program Success Target for this Measurement** | | | 80% of students achieve a grade of C or higher on the IDST 495 Capstone Project | | **Percent of Program Achieving Target** | 87.3%. This was essentially the same as AY22-23 (86.6%). Consider raising to 85% in AY24-25. | |
| **Methods** | Each student produces an individual capstone project. Given the nature of the degree and 12 different emphasis areas methods have some variability, but each student produced an individual interdisciplinary research project.  As noted last year, as of Spring 2023, IDST 499 became a one-hour capstone in which students produce an interdisciplinary capstone project described above. The successful Spring 23 pilot of that course resulted in 499 being fully converted in AY2324 into a course focused on producing the Capstone Project to ensure all BIS graduates produce a substantive, interdisciplinary artifact in their capstone course (495 or 499). As the instructor of record for IDST 499, Cort Basham took the existing IDST 495 Capstone Project Assignment and adapted it for the 1-hr IDST 499 course. Essentially, the “major project” component of 495 became the 499 course. Hence, regardless of which capstone option is chosen all BIS graduates produce a major IDST capstone artifact.  This measure indicates the percentage of students who completed the 495/499 course and scored C or higher on the Senior Capstone Project.  All instructors teaching 495/499 reported these data and 131 of 150 capstone students received a grade of C or higher on their capstone project in AY23-24 (87.3%). For comparison, these measures were 110 of 127 (86.7%) in AY22-23. So, there was a significant increase in BIS capstone completions and a slight increase in the rate of successful projects  NOTE: There are still four students enrolled in the Summer 2023 OnDemand section of IDST 495 who do not yet have final grades. | | | | | | |
| **Measurement Instrument 2** |  | | | | | | |
| **Criteria for Student Success** |  | | | | | | |
| **Program Success Target for this Measurement** | |  | | **Percent of Program Achieving Target** | |  | |
| **Methods** |  | | | | | | |
| **Measurement Instrument 3** |  | | | | | | |
| **Criteria for Student Success** |  | | | | | | |
| **Program Success Target for this Measurement** | |  | | **Percent of Program Achieving Target** | |  | |
| **Methods** |  | | | | | | |
| **Based on your results, highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1.** | | | | | | **Met** | **Not Met** |
| **Results, Conclusion, and Plans for Next Assessment Cycle (Describe what worked, what didn’t, and plan going forward)** | | | | | | | |
| **Results**: Closely aligned with expectations and past years.  **Conclusions**: Achieving consistency across all capstone courses in AY23-24 was a major accomplishment. This ensures all BIS graduates produce a capstone project demonstrating PLO 1.  **Plans for Next Assessment Cycle**: In AY24-25, we will consider revisions and improvements to the common capstone assignment. Conversation around a common assignment across nearly 250 majors and 12 BIS Concentration areas is worth having on a regular basis. This project did undergo intense work and conversation this past year so we do not anticipate major changes in the short term. However, we will discuss strengths, weaknesses, and needs for our students based on the work they produced in their capstone courses. We should also compare directions for each assignment and streamline language as they could use some editing for brevity and clarity of instructions. | | | | | | | |

**Curriculum Map**

The BIS requires all WKU Colonnade, total and upper level hours, and GPA requirements. Students choose a BIS Concentration consistent with their learning and career path which is comprised of courses drawn from at least two disciplines. The only required graduation component in the BIS is the senior capstone course taken (preferably) in their final semester.