

Eastern Wyoming College

Instructional Program Review 2017 - 2018

Program: Interdisciplinary Studies

**Prepared by:
Heidi Edmunds, Dean of Instruction
Roger Humphrey, Vice President for Academic Services**

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EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE

Instructional Program Review

Program Name: Interdisciplinary Studies

Part I: Statistical Data from the past three years:

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	5-Year Average
Annualized FTE Enrollment	24	19.2	20.5	25.1
Annualized FTE Faculty	2.4	1.4	1.4	2.0
# Students	158	171	133	162
# Graduated	33	25	15	20.6

FTE = Full-time equivalent Notes:

Statistical data include Human Development and Developmental Studies courses.

- **Developmental Studies courses were renamed into the discipline areas in 2009-2010.**

Modes of Delivery:

online compressed video face-to-face

Advisory Committee Members and Title or Role: (if applicable)

Community Partners or Internships: (if applicable)

Revisions in Curriculum Since Last Review:

Changes to the INST.AA and INST.AS were proposed and approved by the Curriculum and Learning Council to be effective Fall 2018. The primary change is the removal of the 3 credit hour capstone course. This course, most recently ENGL 2001 Sophomore Project, was determined to be a course that no longer served the needs of the Interdisciplinary Studies students. Student pursuing this degree are typically interested in transferring to four-year institutions in majors that do not exist at Eastern Wyoming College (e.g. Engineering). With the removal of the 3 credit hour capstone, students can take an additional program course. The proposed Outcomes Assessment will now be determined by the student's area of emphasis so students can select a capstone experience relevant to their field of study or interest.

Part II Narrative Analysis

Description of Community Need:

Interdisciplinary Studies has more majors than any other major at Eastern Wyoming College. The Interdisciplinary Studies degrees generally serve as transfer degrees that include a variety of courses and electives. They also act as alternatives for students who have been concentrators in a certain program area but because of transfer plans will not be able to complete or need to complete all of the specific program requirements.

For distance and dual enrolled students, the Interdisciplinary Studies degrees are achievable because all of the credits can be completed online. Many times, distance students tailor the Interdisciplinary Studies degrees to meet their individual needs.

The Interdisciplinary Studies degrees offer students the opportunity to earn general education requirements that are accepted at our articulated receiving institutions. It is essential that students understand the transferability of individual courses within their AA and AS degrees. Courses that are traditionally considered Career and Technology Education (CTE) courses do typically transfer to four-year institutions as program courses and generally are accepted only as elective credit. In some instances, universities may opt to not even grant elective credit for those courses. Ideally, Interdisciplinary Studies AA and AS degrees should be nearly entirely comprised of general education credit that can be easily transferred.

Current Community Need/Growth of Industry:

This program primarily serves the needs of transfer students entering into a variety of majors at receiving institutions.

Activities in Support of Student Recruitment and Retention:

Faculty, recruiters, Academic Services, and Outreach offices assist students during summer advising sessions. Outreach coordinators and EWC faculty advise most Outreach students. The Faculty may visit with most prospective students during campus visits or other programmed activities. The college works cooperatively with all public schools in the six-county service area in eastern Wyoming to provide a wide variety of classes, programs and services. EWC has Outreach Coordinators in Moorcroft, Sundance/Hulett, Upton, Newcastle, Glenrock, Glendo, Wheatland, and Guernsey/Lusk who plan and organize credit and non-credit classes for their communities. The Eastern Wyoming College Douglas Campus offers day and evening courses emphasizing general education, nursing, business, computer applications, criminal justice, elementary and secondary education, interdisciplinary studies, and health technology.

Strengths of the Program and Faculty:

One advantage of the program is to offer students an opportunity for a broad-based degree rather than focusing on any one major area. Specific required courses meet the general education requirements for EWC. The program's greatest strength is the flexibility it offers students. The courses and degrees (both AA and AS) transfer to colleges and universities all over the United States. Many of the Interdisciplinary Studies graduates attend the University of Wyoming, Chadron State College, and Black Hills State University. Interdisciplinary Studies graduates go on to major in a variety of programs such as business, education, or preprofessional. Statistics from the University of Wyoming show that our transfer students are more successful than students who start at the University. Other colleges report anecdotally that EWC students do well at their institutions.

The Human Development (HMDV) faculty members are responsible for teaching the College Studies, Study Strategies, reading courses, Orientation to Distance Learning, Empowerment, Success in the Workplace, Lifestyle Management, and Sophomore Project courses. College Studies or Orientation to Distance Learning is a requirement of all AAS, AA and AS degrees at Eastern. College Studies is a freshmen orientation course designed to help students becomes

successful students. The Study Strategies course is an elective class for students who need additional help with organizing and learning how to study. Reading classes are designed to help students further develop reading comprehension skills, vocabulary skills, and general reading strategies. Orientation to Distance Learning provides an overview of the elements required for successful distance learning. This course is highly recommended for students who enroll in a distance education course.

Part III Recommendations

Faculty Recommendations: N/A

Advisory Committee Recommendations: N/A

Dean of Instruction Recommendations:

1. Encourage all new students to take College Studies during the first semester they attend EWC.
2. Continue to increase distance learning course options for Interdisciplinary Studies majors.
3. Evaluate the College Studies curriculum to determine if the course remains relevant as currently designed and offered.
4. Emphasize the importance of general education and transfer courses (rather than CTE courses) within the AA and AS degrees.

Vice President's Recommendations:

I agree with the Dean of Instruction's recommendations that was provided. As a college, we need to look at new delivery options for distance learning students that choose the Interdisciplinary Studies major. Course offerings and course rotations are critical to ensure completion within the program. I would encourage the Dean of Instruction to continue evaluate the curriculum and purpose of our college studies course and other HMDV courses as to their applicability.

For the 2018/2019 academic year, the decision to separate the AS and AA programs among the Math & Sciences Department and the Arts, Humanities, and Social, Behavioral Sciences for oversight and advising hopefully will help address the needs of students more effectively. In addition, curriculum review is essential and needs to be an ongoing process.

I commend the work of the division and faculty who work with our Interdisciplinary Studies Students. Their work on 2+2 articulations have provided students with seamless transitions when they transfer from EWC.

My recommendations are:

1. Set enrollment goals and completion goals for all Interdisciplinary programs, which includes retention, persistence and completion.

2. Continue the articulation agreements with the University of Wyoming and other regional institutions for transfer students.
3. Continue to revise and adjust curricular offerings and courses to meet the ever -changing demands.
4. Continue to develop and expand partnerships with local and regional industries that include internship and externship possibilities for students.
5. Efficiently use faculty and balance workloads and faculty assignments.