

**MDS 491: Project Proposal Development**

**Credit Hours:** 1

**Scheduled hours per week:** Alternate delivery with individual appointments. The senior project proposal will be completed at the end of the fifth week of the semester. It will then be forwarded to the student’s Senior Project Committee for review and editing as necessary for implementation the following semester.

**Catalog Course Description:** Project Proposal Development provides guidance for Multidisciplinary Studies students as they clarify goals and integrate knowledge from their three minors in planning an appropriate project to complete their Bachelor of Arts degree program. (Prerequisite for MDS 492)

**Pre-requisites:** Senior level in MDS degree program

**Co-requisites:** None

**Course Learning Objectives:** The Multidisciplinary Studies Senior Project will compel student to:

1. Integrate knowledge from several disciplines
2. Apply knowledge gained from the program’s arts and sciences core
3. Apply skills and knowledge to complete a culminating academic/professional project
4. Develop an ability to work independently
5. Make a successful transition to the professional world

**Topics to be studied:**

1. Project planning
2. Research
3. Application and integration of knowledge
4. Working independently
5. Proposal writing

<b>Relationship of Course to Program Learning Outcomes</b>	
Explore a variety of academic disciplines through an extensive program of General Education, including coursework in Composition and Rhetoric, Science and Technology, Mathematics and Quantitative Skills, Diversity and Connections, Human Inquiry and the Past, and The Arts and Creativity.	X
Examine in depth three disciplines selected from: Biology, Business, Chemistry, Communications, Fine Arts, History, Literature, Psychology, and Sociology.	X
Synthesize knowledge from these three disciplines and general education through a senior project, developed by the student, approved by a committee consisting of one faculty member from each discipline represented in the project, and successfully completed by the student with the assistance of a faculty mentor.	X

<b>Relationship of Course to General Education Learning Outcomes: others as related to the individual project</b>	
<b>Composition and Rhetoric</b> Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best	X

practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b> Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to data as a basis for conclusions.	
<b>Mathematics &amp; Quantitative Skills</b> Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	
<b>Society, Diversity, &amp; Connections</b> Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	
<b>Human Inquiry &amp; the Past</b> Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	
<b>The Arts &amp; Creativity</b> Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	

**Special requirements of the course:**

1. The senior project will involve at least 150 hours of work. The project proposal must include a calendar for this work showing 12-15 hours to be completed each week.
2. Upon completion for the senior project, the student will submit an electronic portfolio for evaluation by the three member senior project faculty committee. The project proposal is part of this electronic portfolio.
3. The senior project and its electronic portfolio provide the summative assessment for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Multidisciplinary Studies.

**Additional information:**

1. Students must enroll in and complete MDS 491 in the semester prior to enrollment in MDS 492: Multidisciplinary Studies Senior Project.
2. The project proposal is due on October 1 for spring semester projects and March 1 for fall semester projects so students will have time to edit and revise based on feedback for their faculty committee. Students should have a project in mind before the semester begins so that writing of the proposal itself may start during the first week of the semester.

**Prepared by:** H.G. Young III

**Date:** October 20, 2017