

MDS 492: Senior Project**Credit Hours:** 3**Scheduled hours per week:** Determined by project proposal

Catalog Course Description: Multidisciplinary Studies 492: Senior Project is the culmination of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Multidisciplinary Studies. The senior project combines the student's three minors into an academic or professional product. The project may take a variety of formats: formal research paper, scientific laboratory research, social science research, internship/cooperative education experience/service learning, or creative project.

Pre-requisites: MDS 491: Project Proposal Development**Co-requisites:** None

Course Learning Outcomes: The Senior Project is designed to help students make meaning of their final undergraduate semester, while bringing closure, connectedness, and integration and reflection to a diverse set of courses and activities experienced in their bachelor's degree program.

The Senior Project will cause students 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 product
4. Develop an ability to work independently
5. Transition to the professional world

Topics to be studied: As detailed in each individual student project proposal. The project is developed by the student and approved by a three-member faculty committee, with one representative from each discipline within the project, during the semester prior to the project's implementation. Students will submit an electronic portfolio upon completion of the project for evaluation by the faculty committee.

Relationship of Course to Program Learning Outcomes	
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 the 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

Relationship of Course to General Education Learning Outcomes: General Education is the core of the Multidisciplinary Studies degree. Students will have completed coursework in all of the areas below and the Senior Project will reflect integration of several, if not all of these.

Composition and Rhetoric Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	X
Science & Technology 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.	X
Mathematics & Quantitative Skills Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	X
Society, Diversity, & Connections Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	X
Human Inquiry & the Past Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	X
The Arts & Creativity Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	X

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.
3. The senior project and its electronic portfolio provide the summative assessment for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Multidisciplinary Studies.

Additional Information:

1. The project must begin on the first day of the semester.
2. The electronic portfolio will be due on November 15 for fall semester projects and April 15 for the spring semester projects to allow time for the faculty committee to review and evaluate.

Prepared by: H.G. Young III

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