



DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

AY 2014-15

Annual Report

This document provides a basic overview of the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs, including its structure, mission, and information about the programs it houses.



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Division of Interdisciplinary Programs

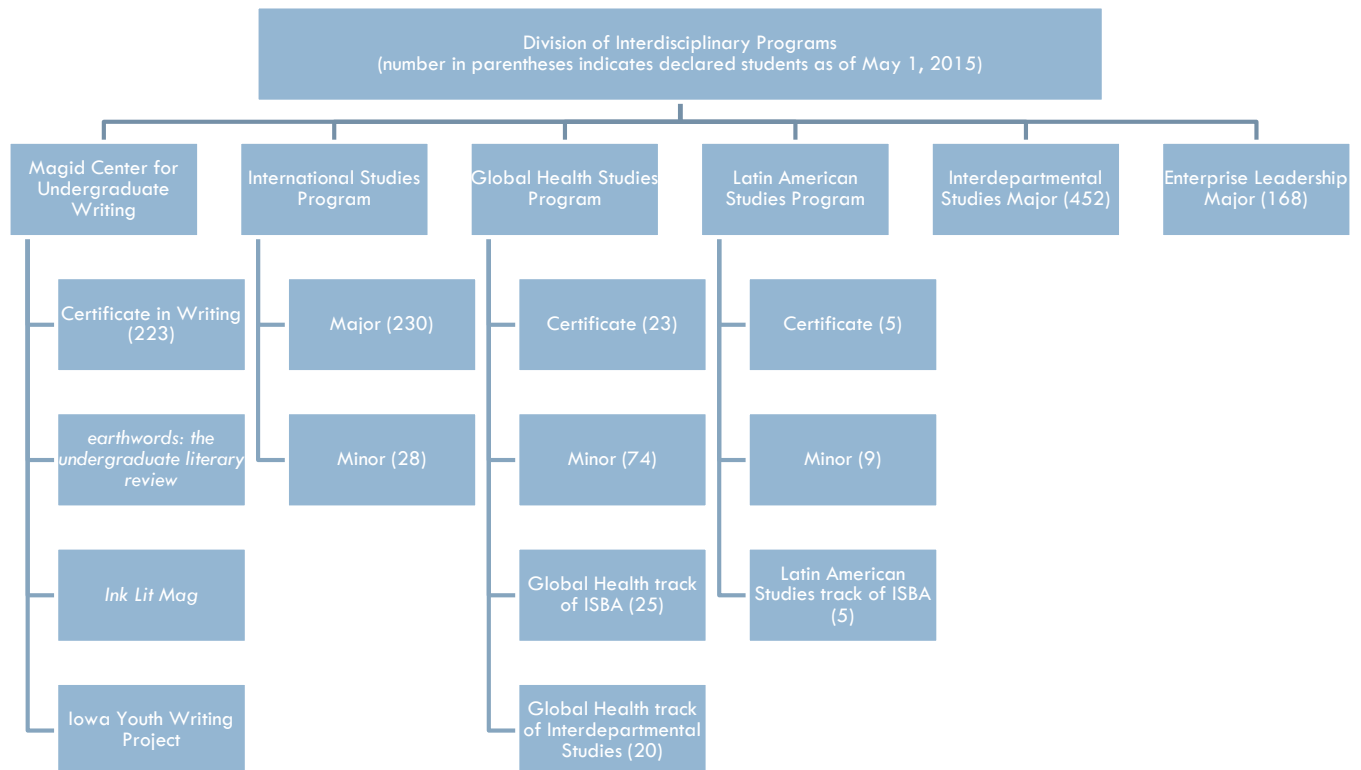
2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT THE DIVISION

The Division of Interdisciplinary Programs in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences provides an institutional and intellectual space which facilitates faculty and student collaboration across disciplines within the College, and with other UI colleges, units and programs.

The Division is home to six academic and three co-curricular programs; this combination allows the Division to provide unique professional and community-based opportunities in addition to academic experiences to over 1200 students.

These programs share a commitment to interdisciplinary activities as an increasingly important foundation for future innovations in the arts, humanities, and sciences in Iowa, the nation, and globally.



THE MAGID CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE WRITING WRITING-BASED ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION, WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE, & OUTREACH

About the Magid Center

Since its founding in 2011, the Frank N. Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing has become a destination for incoming and current students alike who understand the need to communicate effectively and have a passion for the written word. The Magid Center provides support and guidance to young writers looking to expand their experience as creators, editors, readers, teachers, and active citizens, regardless of their academic background or area of study, through the Certificate in Writing, the undergraduate literary magazines *Ink Lit Mag* and *earthwords*, and the literacy non-profit Iowa Youth Writing Project.

CERTIFICATE IN WRITING

<h1>233</h1> <p>Declared students</p>	<h1>57</h1> <p>Graduates</p>	<h1>52</h1> <p>Different majors pursued by Writing Certificate students</p>
---------------------------------------	------------------------------	---



The cornerstone of the Magid Center is our Certificate in Writing Program. An academic credential that complements any major on campus, the Certificate in Writing is open to all UI undergraduates. Its diverse course pool can be tailored to each individual student, allowing students to pursue a concentration in writing related to their majors, their career goals, and/or their personal interests.

The Certificate in Writing exemplifies:

- **TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION:** Faculty from English, business, creative writing, chemistry, theatre arts, and rhetoric serve on the Certificate's steering committee;
- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:** Students pursuing the certificate engage in the literary community through special lectures, readings, and small group Q&As with visiting authors, and share their own work through open mics and by creating a Capstone project;
- **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** Writing Certificate students have gone on to win the Norton Award, intern at the office of the Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, and be admitted to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's MFA program in Visual Communication.

Student Spotlight

At the advice of my sculpture professor, I took Bookbinding I and Artists Books, and I felt an even deeper connection between my art and my writing...I'll continue to explore book-binding as an art form and vehicle for my writing. Had I not been given this opportunity, I would have lost a wealth of experiences that have prepared me for graduation and independent work. Now, I can face graduation as a writer with the tools to build a future.

—Emily Eldred, May 2015 BFA Art (Sculpture), Writing Certificate

THE MAGID CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE WRITING

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS: INK LIT MAG AND EARTHWORDS

<h1>626</h1> <p>Submissions received</p>	<h1>85</h1> <p>Pieces published</p>	<h1>400+</h1> <p>Attendees at earthwords- or Ink-sponsored events</p>	<h1>62</h1> <p>Editorial board and/or reading team members</p>
--	-------------------------------------	---	--



As a way of providing experiential learning opportunities for UI undergraduates, the Magid Center is home to two impressive student-run publications: *Ink Lit Mag*, operated by first-year students in the Iowa Writers Living-Learning Community and *earthwords*, a literary journal open to all undergraduates. These publications provide students the opportunity to lead meetings; improve interpersonal skills; gain editorial, proofreading, design, and marketing experience; practice professional workplace behavior; and work with established authors.

The undergraduate publications exemplify:

- **TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION:** Students may live in the Iowa Writers Living-Learning Community and work on or submit to *Ink Lit Mag*, and students pursuing any major may serve on the editorial board or submit to *earthwords*;
- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:** In 2014-15, over 1,000 students engaged with the magazines by submitting, attending events, or serving on the editorial boards and/or reading teams of *Ink* and *earthwords*.
- **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** Students who have worked with and/or published work in these magazines have gone on to intern with publishing companies across the world, including Sarabande Books in New York City, Copper Canyon Press in Seattle, the *Iowa Review*, *The Believer* in San Francisco, and *Women's Fitness Magazine* in London. Additionally, pieces from these undergraduate journals have been selected for republication in *plain china*, a magazine that represents the best undergraduate writing from across the country.



Student Spotlight

I've had radio and newspaper interviews and people stopping me in the street to comment on my work. Awesome, unexpected things do happen, and I owe my current success to the writing community here at The University of Iowa.

—Sevy Perez, May 2015 BA Art, Writing Certificate; designer for *Ink Lit Mag*

THE MAGID CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE WRITING THE IOWA YOUTH WRITING PROJECT

168 Volunteers mobilized	215 Children engaged on a weekly basis	1600 Hours volunteered
22 Tireless undergraduate interns	200+ Children engaged at special events	1500+ Pieces of writing created



The Iowa Youth Writing Project (IYWP) is a dynamic nonprofit that provides writing, tutoring, creative learning, and publishing opportunities (at little or no cost to participants) to youth across the state of Iowa. With the help of its passionate volunteer base (predominately consisting of UI faculty and students), the IYWP brings unique literacy and language arts programs to some of the state's most at-risk youth via after-school/in-school support and mentorship, as well as a diverse range of extracurricular writing workshops (creative, academic, and interdisciplinary). This activity extends University resources statewide and strives to provide better futures for Iowans.

The IYWP exemplifies:

- **TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION:** Volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests, and include undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty from many programs and colleges.
- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:** UI students gain valuable leadership and community building experience by joining the IYWP as volunteers or interns. They may engage on a deeper level and earn academic credit for their volunteering by enrolling in Writing with Purpose (3 s.h.) or Writers in the Community (1 s.h., 6-week off-cycle course).
- **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** IYWP interns and volunteers continue to serve underprivileged children through placements in Teach for America.

Student Spotlight

The most important thing I learned from the IYWP is that kids everywhere—regardless of race, gender, class, or nationality—are basically the same. They want to laugh, they want to be liked, and they want to learn.

—Annie Brinich, May 2013 BA English (Creative Writing) & Spanish, IYWP Intern

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES CRITICAL FOR LIFE AND CAREER IN THE 21ST CENTURY

<p>230</p> <p>Declared majors</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Declared minors</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Honors posters presented</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships awarded to IS students</p>
--	---	--	---



The IS major's interdisciplinary curriculum combines the social sciences, humanities, and arts with world language study. The major attracts a diverse range of students in part because it can be tailored to individual interests and goals through the selection of a track, world language and program option, including research, coursework, or experiential learning.

IS students develop a range of transferable skills including the ability to analyze complex contemporary global issues. This equips them for careers in education, translation/interpreting, non-profit work/ non-governmental organizations, business and government. Recent graduates have gone on to graduate and professional degrees in urban and regional planning, public health, law, student affairs, international development, and non-profit management.

The International Studies Program exemplifies:

- **TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION:** IS tracks are overseen by faculty from liberal arts, business, education, and the health sciences;
- **INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT:** Over 2/3rds of spring 2015 graduates studied, volunteered, or interned abroad;
- **DIVERSITY:** Students in the program represent diverse backgrounds, including international students (13% of declared majors) and US students of color (26%).

Student Spotlight

Not only do I feel prepared to explore the world, but I feel prepared to interact with all those who inhabit it, respectfully and with knowledge of their countries...

—Allison Ufen, May 2015, BA International Studies/Development track, Writing Certificate



GLOBAL HEALTH STUDIES PROGRAM

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO THE COMPLEX PROCESSES INFLUENCING HEALTH AND DISEASE AROUND THE WORLD

23 Declared certificate students	25 Students in the GHS track of International Studies	1 200 Students enrolled in GHS courses
74 Declared minors	20 Students in the GHS track of Interdepartmental Studies	



The Global Health Studies Program engages students in real-world health problems and challenges them to embark on careers which place a priority on improving health and achieving equity for all people worldwide. The program is distinctive in its commingling of the health sciences with the humanities and the social sciences so as to better understand the underlying forces that shape health and illness such as technology, economics, politics, law, history and culture.

Options for studying global health at UI include a certificate (for undergraduate and graduate/professional students), a minor, and a track in either the International Studies or Interdepartmental B.A.

Global Health attracts students from a wide range of disciplines, including anthropology, nursing, health sciences, economics, engineering, business, journalism, and social work. Global health students are prepared for careers in advocacy, research, education, policy, and the health professions.

The Global Health Studies Program exemplifies:

- **TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION:** Faculty from liberal arts and the health professions serve on the Global Health steering committee;
- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:** Over 100 students participated in the 2014 conference, “Global Health and Violent Conflict.” The fall 2015 conference is “Contagion: Causes, Costs, and Containment”;
- **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** A Global Health certificate student who studied solar cooking stoves in India was awarded a 2015 Gates Cambridge Scholarship.



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
INTERDISCIPLINARY TEACHING AND RESEARCH ON CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, MEXICO,
THE CARIBBEAN AND THE LATINO GLOBAL DIASPORA

<p>5</p> <p>Declared certificate students</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Declared Minors</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Students in the LAS track of International Studies</p>
--	--	---



The Latin American Studies Program (LASP) fosters cross-disciplinary teaching and research on a broad range of countries, disciplines, and themes.

Options for studying Latin American Studies at UI include a certificate, a minor, and a track in the International Studies B.A. Students begin with the Introduction to Latin American Studies course, and then build courses around a particular theme (e.g., health, human rights, popular culture), area of interest (e.g., U.S. Latinos, the Andes, Brazil), or disciplinary focus (e.g., literature, history, political science).

This approach prepares students for careers and graduate/professional programs in education, social services, health sciences, business, communications, urban planning and international development.

The Latin American Studies Program exemplifies:

- **TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION:** Faculty from the social sciences, communication studies, world languages, humanities, and the arts serve on the Latin American Studies advisory committee
- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:** As part of the spring seminar *Culture of Politics/Politics of Culture: Latin America Cultural Studies and Social Movements in the 20th and 21st Centuries*, students attended lectures by visiting scholars on “Constructing a Maya Diasporic Historical Memory on the Airwaves,” and “Univisión and the Dynamics of Mass Connected Hispanic Media”
- **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** Two Latin American Studies certificate students worked as research assistants on the Prevention Research Center’s Latino/a public health project in Ottumwa, Iowa.



INTERDEPARTMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM

A NON-TRADITIONAL ROUTE TO CAREERS IN HUMAN SERVICES, BUSINESS, THE HEALTH SCIENCES, AND MORE

<h1>452</h1> <p>Declared majors</p>	<h1>165</h1> <p>Graduates</p>	<h1>7</h1> <p>Students pursuing an Individualized Plan of Study</p>
-------------------------------------	-------------------------------	---



The Interdepartmental Studies Program provides an alternative to traditional undergraduate majors. It gives students the opportunity to design an individualized plan of study or to choose a preapproved plan in applied human services, business studies, or health science. Each track includes course work from a variety of departments. In addition to these tracks, the engaged social innovation track encourages implementation of community social engagement projects using entrepreneurial strategies. It is a joint venture between the UI Honors Program and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This track is selective and requires both an application and membership in the Honors Program.

The self-defined B.A. in Interdepartmental Studies gives students the opportunity to define their own area of intellectual focus with the help of the Interdepartmental Studies Adviser. Thus, the program allows students to design their own majors, in an interdisciplinary area that does not exist as an academic department at the University. Interdepartmental Studies students have designed individualized majors in areas as varied as aging studies, international business, diversity studies, children's studies, environmental issues, and health issues.

The flexible curriculum offered by Interdepartmental Studies allows students to create or choose study programs that meet their individual educational and career objectives, whether they intend to seek employment right after graduation or continue their studies at the graduate or professional level.

The Interdepartmental Studies Program exemplifies:

- **TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION:** Faculty from liberal arts, business, and the Honors Program serve on the Interdepartmental Studies Program advisory committee.
- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:** Students have completed internships at the following organizations: The Iowa City Free Medical Clinic, The Children's Center for Therapy, Summer of the Arts, American Red Cross, The Englert Theatre, and The ARC of Southeast Iowa.
- **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** A student pursuing the Individualized Plan of Study was awarded the Harry S. Truman Scholarship in 2013 for demonstrated leadership, public service, and academic achievement.

ENTERPRISE LEADERSHIP

A FUSION OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS APPROACHES TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

168

Declared majors in the first semester
of the program's existence



The enterprise leadership major presents a unique blend of skills, theory, and content, encouraging students to apply their knowledge and skills to entrepreneurial concepts and ventures. The program offers a combination of business and liberal arts approaches and allows students to hone their skills in innovation, entrepreneurship, communication, critical thinking, and leadership.

On-campus students began registering for classes in the new major in spring 2015.

The program is expected to be available online to distance education students in the fall of 2015.

Enterprise Leadership exemplifies:

- **TRANSDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION:** The major in enterprise leadership is offered jointly by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the John Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurial Management in the Tippie College of Business. The program is administered by the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Management Center and the degree is awarded by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:** Enterprise Leadership students complete an experiential capstone where students are required to apply their education in a real-world setting. Many students begin start-up companies or complete unique internships to fulfill this requirement.
- **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** An Enterprise Leadership student will spend the fall 2015 semester at a full-time internship with a team of other students, working to develop a product that will prevent mother hogs from rolling over and killing some of their young, a prevalent problem on hog farms. This project has attracted the interest of big Ag companies and Iowa State University.

Student Spotlight

The Enterprise Leadership major has allowed me to hone my business and marketing skills in order to be a better leader and communicator.

—Hunter Belzer, 3rd year Enterprise Leadership student

CONTACT INFORMATION

DIVISION ADMINISTRATION

Helena Dettmer

helena-dettmer@uiowa.edu

DEO, Interdisciplinary Programs

Allison Rockwell

allison-rockwell@uiowa.edu

Division Administrator, Interdisciplinary Programs

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Karmen Berger

karmen-berger@uiowa.edu

Academic Coordinator, Global Health Studies, International Studies, Latin American Studies Programs

Joy Hayes

joy-hayes@uiowa.edu

Director, Latin American Studies Program

David Hensley

david-hensley@uiowa.edu

Director, Enterprise Leadership Program

Daniel Khalastchi

daniel-khalastchi@uiowa.edu

Associate Director, Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing

Christopher Squier

christopher-squier@uiowa.edu

Director, Global Health Studies Program

Interim Director, International Studies Program

Andrew Tinkham

andrew-tinkham@uiowa.edu

Academic Coordinator, Interdepartmental Studies Program