

**2007-2008 Mid-Year Report on Campus Initiatives  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

**Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Programs  
Working Team**

***Summary of Activities to Date***

Last summer, the concept of developing innovative interdisciplinary undergraduate degree programs emerged from dialogues with the CoD. A white paper was developed as a framework for the concept and discussed with several deans, to assess interest in specific interdisciplinary areas. Two promising areas were identified as potential pilots for interdisciplinary degree development: health and informatics. In the initial model, discussions and planning focused on interdisciplinarity and program oversight at the college level, in AHS for health and in GSLIS for informatics. A planning team consisting of faculty members from AHS and GSLIS, as well as Provost's staff members, was formed to develop both (a) proposals for two interdisciplinary programs of study, one in applied health and one in informatics, and (b) a template to guide the structure of these interdisciplinary degrees and any future proposals to be developed.

The planning team has met three times as a full group, and on several additional occasions in subcommittees (one focusing on health content and the other focusing on informatics content). A basic template for degree structure has been developed, briefly summarized below:

**Draft Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Degree Structure**

<b>General Education Requirements</b>	<b>Maximum Hours</b>	<b>37-42</b>
<b>Core</b>	<b>Total Core Hours</b>	<b>32-41</b>
Core, Part 1:		
[Shared Across All Interdisciplinary UG Degree Programs]		
Orientation to Interdisciplinary Studies	3	
*Methods of Interdisciplinary Inquiry	3	
Capstone	8-10	
Option A: Internship		
Option B: Independent Project		
Option C: Research/Writing		
Interdisciplinary Seminar	1-4	
Core, Part 2:		
[Specific Core Courses for Interdisciplinary UG Programs]		
Health Core	17-21	
or		
Informatics Core	17-21	
<b>Concentrations/Options</b>	<b>Total Concentration hours</b>	<b>18</b>
Health Concentrations - TBD		
Informatics Concentrations - TBD		
<b>Electives</b>	<b>Total Elective Hours</b>	<b>20-34</b>

***Next Steps and Timeline for Completion***

The full planning team will meet on two more occasions in January 2008, and subcommittees will meet, as needed, with the goal of finalizing pilot proposals of the template and the two degree programs in Spring 2008. The goal is to submit at least one of the pilot programs to the Senate Educational Policy Committee and full Senate in Spring 2008.