

Pathway Goal: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity
Action Item # 2-1

Report: Year-End: May 2018

Action Item Description:

Develop Interdisciplinary PhD Program(s).

Submitted By:

Name	Department
Brian Chrzan	SDM – Biomedical Sciences

Working Group Members:

Name	Department
Brian Chrzan	SDM - Biomedical Sciences
Kendall Hartley	Graduate College
Brianne Heinle	Graduate College
Janet Dufek	Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences
Glenn Nowak	Architecture
Kate Korgan	Graduate College
Hui Zhao	Mechanical Engineering
Douglas Unger	English
Andrew Hardin	Lee Business School
Edwin Oh	Personalized Medicine & SOM
Stephanie Molina	Psychology
Katelyn DiBenedetto	Anthropology

Process and Timeline: Provide a brief summary of the year-long process for your working group.

- The working group has met monthly to address the action items set by the 2016-2017 IDGP working group. A summary of IDGPs among aspirational peer universities has been developed. Recommended policies and procedures for the structure and establishment of new IDGP programs have been drafted (see attached). The working group will continue to meet monthly to review additional action items, including guidelines for Individual IDGPs and program proposal forms.

Describe what has been accomplished so far this year.

A draft of “Policies and Procedures for UNLV Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs” has been completed and attached to this report.

Identify next steps.

The working group will identify the unique characteristics of Individual IDGP programs in regard to coordination, location and the program proposal process. This will also include a consideration of sequential certificates in Interdisciplinary subject areas leading to the completion of M.S. and Ph.D. degrees.

What will your final product be at the end of the year? Such as, what metrics which will be used to assess your progress/achievement, will a report be generated, etc?

In addition to the attached Policy and Procedure Guidelines for IDGP's that cross departments, schools and/or colleges, a similar report will be generated outlining the creation of Individual IDGP's that are customized to the unique interests of a student. A revised program proposal and process specific to IDGP's will also be created.

You may have reference material to attach to this report. Select from the list.

No additional reference material

OR

Any material generated by this working group (if completed at this time)

*Policies and Procedures for UNLV Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs
Draft – November 9, 2017*

Additional information to include (optional).

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End of Mid-Year Report
Remainder of the report will be completed in May.

Year-End

This portion is to be completed in May.

2017-18 Accomplishments.

1. Completed the “Policies and Procedures for UNLV Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs” document that compiles research and discussions of the group over 2016-2017. This document defines IDGPs and addresses the potential barriers to formation, including the administrative structure, definition of faculty roles/membership in the IDGP, membership and roles of the Executive Committee, and roles of the Graduate College and Host Unit.

2. The committee has suggested delaying further development of “Individual” IDGPs until there is the successful development of additional inter-college/departamental IDGPs. These additional IDGPs will help lay the groundwork for individualized programs. It is expected that the investment in an additional RPC coordinator specifically for IDGPs will be required prior to the consideration of individualized programs.

3. The committee proposes the allocation of funds to hire an additional RPC Coordinator specifically for IDGPs. The two IDGPs in existence would benefit greatly from a dedicated RPC Coordinator, and several additional IDGPs are in the pipeline, emphasizing the need for this position to be created and filled prior to their inception.

4. The committee has researched the variety of certificate programs offered by aspirational peer institutions, including those whose total credit hours could be applied to a Master’s degree, and those that are sequentially stacked with a culminating experience leading to a Master’s degree. The committee has concluded that these certificate programs add to an individual’s market competitiveness and provide a tangible return on investment. Stackable certificates also provide a unique opportunity to combine various disciplines to create an interdisciplinary Master’s degree. The committee is currently working on a proposal outlining the policies and procedures for stackable certificates leading to a Master’s degree.

SWOT Analysis: Determine the strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats presented in the data.

Strength(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Affordability ▪ Supportive of non-traditional students ▪ Continual interest and growth in online education
Weakness(es)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Slower than our aspirational peers in developing IDGPs ▪ Underfunding/understaffing in many departments/programs ▪ Limited resources available for recruitment, retention, advising and marketing of new programs ▪ Accessibility: Are there adequate day, night and online formats?
Opportunity(ies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tap into healthcare with interdisciplinary programs combining existing certificates with new certificates offered by the UNLV medical and dental schools ▪ Stackable certificates should attract applicants from local employers, leading to conversations and partnerships that may make all of our graduates more appealing to them.
Threat(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growing competition from other universities, particularly on-line programs that are desirable to working professionals that are most interested in part-time

certificate programs

2018-19 recommendations and next steps

- What does the SWOT analysis reveal?
- What should the goals / activities be for the subcommittee?
- Who should be responsible?

Despite some weaknesses and competition in online education and interdisciplinary programs, UNLV should continue to invest in and develop novel paths to interdisciplinary degrees that offer meaningful credentials that are valued in the workplace.

The action items and goals of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program subcommittee have evolved beyond PhD programs over the last two years. The working group is currently preparing a proposal outlining the policies and procedures for stackable certificates leading to a Master's degree. Once complete, it is suggested that the committee's focus is broadened to include a variety of other innovative topics in graduate education to be determined by the Top Tier Chairs of Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity. If supported, this may require a change in the name of the subcommittee but membership can remain the same as 2017-2018.

You may have reference material to attach to this report. Select from the list.

No additional reference material

OR

Any material generated by this working group

Additional information to include (optional).

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End of Report
