

## Degree Program Student Learning Outcomes 2005-2006 Bennett College for Women

<b>Division Name</b>		<b>Academic Year</b>		
Humanities		2005-2006		
<b>Degree Program Name</b>		<b>Degree Level</b>		
Interdisciplinary Studies		B.A., B.S.		
<b>Mission of Degree Program</b>				
<p>The Mission of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program is to empower majors as sensitive perceivers, critical thinkers, and participating public servants and career professionals who promote the pursuit of wisdom, beauty and truth as central to exemplary living, and as crucial to the attainment of social justice throughout the world. The program endeavors to encourage its graduates to pursue leadership opportunities and life long learning through continuing graduate and professional education and international study.</p>				
<b>Student Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Assessment Methods</b>	<b>Expected Results</b>	<b>Actual Results 2005-2006</b>	<b>Use of Results 2006-2007</b>
1. Students completing this program will be able to communicate effectively in an integrative manner, using uniquely envisioned and designed interdisciplinary frameworks that reflect their intended career goals.	Required analyses by students of the content of lived-through internship experiences, and by letters of reference submitted by outside evaluators attesting to the students ability to apply career relevant framework in the internship setting.	All graduating majors will have demonstrated the ability to succeed in an internship experience and to write cogently about pivotal episodes in their internship experience. This will be accomplished through the completion of an Internship Research Essay—an essay which they will provide in their IS 366 Notebook.	Demonstration of the ability to write cogently was accomplished at a consistently above average level in Internship Notebooks. The essays focused on internships in computer programming (at IBM), Library Management (at the Schromberg Center in NY, and education (within the Maryland Public System).	The papers reflecting the positive results will be used as exemplary models for prospective majors and students progressing toward the completion of the degree of B.S. and S in Interdisciplinary Studies. An Emphasis will be placed on streamlining of critical thinking skills exemplified in the internship research papers.
2. Students completing this program will possess a heightened ability to think critically.	IS 161 Critical Thinking tests on facts basic to understanding the structure of rational thought and its positive applications in public debate.	Graduating majors will demonstrate increased ability to use logical analysis on objective tests (and at 60% or better proficiency)	Graduating majors (in Spring of 2006) completed the abstract higher level cognitive critical thinking assignments at a 60% or higher level.	With the introduction of an across the curriculum tutorial program in Critical Thinking in Fall 06, I will work for a level of performance of over 70%

<p>3. Students completing this program will possess a heightened multifaceted sensory awareness, and heightened awareness of the role of art in society and an enhanced appreciation of the aesthetic dimension of human experience.</p>	<p>Research essays completed (and collected in the Perception and Aesthetic course notebook) that are focused on sensory awareness, and of the modalities of creative expression will be judge by objective an objective ballot to assess the students' understanding of basic value laden (aesthetic) concepts and their social applications.</p>	<p>All graduating majors will have demonstrated an increased ability to classify, categorize and analyze seminal aesthetic works (and at least at 60% proficiency) and will be able to effectively utilize value-laden materials to arrive at reasonable judgments about social applications.</p>	<p>Notebooks demonstrating competence in the ability to classify, categorize and analyze seminal aesthetic works were completed by all three of the May 2006 graduating seniors in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program (in their Perception and Aesthetics Course Notebooks) with scores at an above average (82%) to excellent ( 95%) level..</p>	<p>The program will continue to require the skills that are needed for clear and profound writing about aesthetics. The determination of level of competence on pre-tests and the achievement of demonstrated competence on regular objective examinations will be judged by a new rubric for Perception and Aesthetics standards for notebooks and supplemental writing.</p>
<p>4. Students completing this program will have a deeper understanding of central value issues germane to women's leadership in intellectual and aesthetic domains—and of how their stands on these issues are related to their own career choices and ethical and spiritual heritages.</p>	<p>Students will participate in oral interviews concern learning objectives that deal with their envisioned career, their leadership with respect to moral issues, and the varieties of leadership styles and the womanist values that support them.</p>	<p>All graduating seniors will (1) be able to complete and discuss leadership objectives within a cogent career focus, as confirmed by sign-off on a uniquely designed Interdisciplinary Major Concentration by appropriate mentors and the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, and (2) complete an interview that includes discussion of a career and value-related leadership issue.</p>	<p>All graduating IS majors (1) completed item #1, and (2) made Oral presentations on a topic of choice germane to career-connected social issues (the resolution of which will require leadership skills). These were completed by all graduating seniors in the Critical Thinking and/or Perception and Aesthetics courses with an above average or better result.</p>	<p>To provide an additional, objective overview of the demonstrated skills, and to facilitate a sharing of their career aspirations and concomitant leadership skills , IS Majors will exchange papers next semester with majors in the Africana Women Studies Program, and review and respond to the critical comments offered by both the instructor and the students in this field.</p>

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