

Update on IDSC Undergraduate Degree Program

Kathryn Flynn

June 16, 2015

Faculty Advisory Committee

- Kathryn Flynn (Chair)
 - Robert Nelson (Agriculture)
 - Jeffrey Smith (Engineering)
 - Mary Rudisill (Education)
 - Tom Gallagher (Forestry and Wildlife Sciences)
 - Vacant (Liberal Arts)
 - Justin Benefield (Business)
 - Mary Mendonca (Sciences and Mathematics)
 - Carol Warfield (Human Sciences)
 - Jerrod Windham (Architecture, Design and Construction)
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- *serve staggered, 3-year terms; meet twice a semester, additional meetings as needed

Quick recap of program structure

- 41-42 hours of University Core
- 9 hours of IDSC supporting courses + COMM 1000 (in core)
 - Includes Introduction to IDSC, Communications course, Computer Competency course, upper-level Composition course, Capstone course
- 45 hours in major
 - 2 areas of emphasis with minimum 21 hours in one, maximum 24 hours in one
 - 3 areas of emphasis with 15 hours in each area (may use existing minors for emphases)
- 25-26 hours of electives
 - Allows for supporting courses and/or pre-requisites for areas of emphasis
 - Allows for a minor
 - Allows for true electives

Requirements for admission

- <90 earned hours
- Must pass IDSC 2190 with a grade of C or better
- If >90 hours application must be reviewed and approved by the Faculty Advisory Committee
- Application includes:
 - Plan of Study
 - Faculty Advisor from each emphasis area must have approved courses
 - Application Essay/Goal Statement
 - Must show linkages between emphasis areas

Capstone Course

- 3-hour course
 - IDSC 4930—graded, thesis option
 - IDSC 4980—ungraded, internship or service learning option
- Student and a faculty member develop syllabus and submit to Faculty Advisory Committee
- Committee reviews each syllabus and approves or asks for revisions

Status of the program

- Program approved by ACHE June 26, 2009
- First student admitted spring semester of 2010
- 277 students admitted as of June 15, 2015
- 178 students have graduated as of May 9, 2015
- 50+ students enrolled in IDSC 2190 every Fall and Spring for the last 1.5 years
- 50-65 students enrolled as IDSC majors each semester over the last year
- IDSC is moving to the new University College

Accomplishments of IDSC students

- 10 students nominated for Phi Kappa Phi (Fall, 2012-Spring, 2015)
- Male recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, Spring 2013
- Female recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, Spring, 2015
- 10% of Auburn's Who's Who in American Colleges & Universities, 2014, 2015
- Survey conducted in August 2014:
 - 132 students had graduated as of Spring 2014
 - 78 responded to the survey
 - 72 gainfully employed
 - 4 in graduate school
 - 2 unemployed and looking for a job

Challenges

- Application process is time consuming
 - Working to minimize the number of signatures required
- Proposing creation of an Internship class with a coordinator rather than each student having an instructor; students selecting the thesis option would still have a subject-matter specialist as instructor
- Proposing the addition of a seminar class during which students would develop a capstone proposal and expand on the ePortfolio begun in IDSC 2190
- Recruiting faculty interested in teaching IDSC 2190

Questions?

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