**KEENE STATE COLLEGE**

**SENATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**2016-17 PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORM**

**Date of Submission**: October 5, 2016

**Sponsoring Program and Chair**: Integrative Studies Program: Director, Dr. Mark C. Long

**Proposal Sponsor**: Dr. Mark C. Long

**Proposed Action**: **Program Redesign**

**CURRENT PROGRAM**

**Integrative Studies Program** <http://www.keene.edu/catalog/resources/programs/bachelors/>

Students at Keene State College complete two programs of study to earn a degree – the College's Integrative Studies Program and their major program of study.

Keene State College's Integrative Studies Program purposefully and intentionally helps students develop an understanding of how they and others engage their worlds. The program provides students with the opportunity to develop the skills necessary for success in academics and careers and preserves the breadth of a liberal arts education that enables students to succeed in a global environment. The integrative teaching and learning process approaches teaching and learning in intentionally connected ways.

Students will connect knowledge and skills from multiple sources and experiences, apply knowledge and skills in varied settings, utilize diverse points of view, and learn how to understand issues contextually. Knowledge in both individual and multiple disciplines is the foundation upon which integrative learning builds. Integrative learning often occurs as students put theory into practice, "making meaning" as students apply abstract concepts in practical settings.

Though they are not required as part of the Integrative Studies Program, students should also consider as part of their learning, developing competence in a second language, participating in a study abroad program, and participating in experiential learning in which disciplinary, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary knowledge can be applied.

**Program Outcomes**

The program has three sets of outcomes: including disciplinary or interdisciplinary, integrative and skills (reading, writing, quantitative reasoning information literacy, critical thinking, creative thinking, critical dialogue, technological fluency) outcomes. Specific outcomes and criteria may be accessed on the ISP web and program pages.

**Requirements**

*40 credits minimum*

Students complete a total of 40 credits as follows, including a minimum of two courses (8 credits) at the 300 or 400 level. Students may enroll in the upper-level courses once they have completed a minimum of 24 credits of lower-level (100- to 200-level) courses, including [ITW 101](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/ITW101/) and [IQL 101](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/IQL101/) in the Integrative Studies Program. The upper-level requirement must be completed at Keene State College. Students are expected to complete [ITW 101](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/ITW101/) within their first two semesters and [IQL 101](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/IQL101/) within their first three semesters. Keene State College students must meet the quantitative literacy requirement. Most students will meet the requirement by successfully completing an [IQL 101](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/IQL101/) course in their first year at Keene State. Students who successfully complete [MATH 120](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/MATH120/), or [MATH 141](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/MATH141/), or [MATH 172](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/MATH172/), or [MATH 175](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/MATH175/), or [MGT 140](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/MGT140/) will meet, in lieu of [IQL 101](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/IQL101/), the quantitative literacy requirement. However, [IQL 101](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/IQL101/) courses do not substitute for [MATH 120](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/MATH120/), or [MATH 141](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/MATH141/), or [MATH 172](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/MATH172/), or [MATH 175](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/MATH175/), or [MGT 140](http://www.keene.edu/catalog/courses/detail/MGT140/).

**I. Foundations (8 credits)**

* Thinking and Writing (4 credits)
* Quantitative Literacy (4 credits)

**II. Three courses in the Arts and Humanities (12 credits) - Courses must be taken in three different disciplines.**

* 1 course in the Humanities
* 1 course in the Fine and Performing Arts
* 1 course in either the Humanities or the Fine and Performing Arts

**III. Three courses in the Sciences (12 credits) - Courses must be taken in three different disciplines.**

* 1 course in the Natural Sciences
* 1 course in the Social Sciences
* 1 course in either the Natural or Social Sciences

**IV. One course in Interdisciplinary Studies (4 credits)**

**V. One course in the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences or Interdisciplinary area. Do not repeat a discipline from category II or III.**

\* A minimum of two upper-level (300 or 400) ISP courses must be completed. Students may enroll in upper-level courses once they have completed a minimum of 24 credits of lower level ISP courses, including ITW and IQL.

**Integrative Outcomes**

The integrative outcomes provide students with the opportunity to learn and discuss overarching themes, perspectives, and paradigms that necessitate their active engagement in the KSC learning environment. In order to achieve this engagement, every course in the Integrative Studies Program must address at least one of the integrative outcomes.

**Intellectual/Academic Skills Outcomes**

Critical reading and dialogue, writing, quantitative reasoning, critical and creative thinking, information and technological fluency and skills are the skills students use to communicate what they know. These are skills that lay the foundation for both academic and professional success. In the Integrative Studies Program, faculty work with students to develop these skills at a level commensurate with a baccalaureate degree. They are practiced extensively, across the program, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects and expectations.

**PROPOSED PROGRAM**

**Integrative Studies Program**

Students at Keene State College complete two programs of study to earn a degree—the College's Integrative Studies Program and their major program of study.

Keene State College believes in the value of a liberal arts education—that the best way for students to prepare for the future is to develop transferable intellectual and practical skills, including their capacity to think critically and creatively, to communicate effectively, and to make connections between different areas of knowledge. Our approach to integrative teaching and learning enhances students’ major programs of study by empowering them with the understanding, adaptability, and creativity to succeed in academic settings and in their lives beyond school.

Students begin the Program by completing ITW-101 Thinking and Writing (ITW) and the Quantitative Literacy (QL) requirement. Students then take perspectives courses in six academic disciplines in four content areas, the arts (IA), humanities (IH), natural sciences (IN), and social sciences (IS), as well as an interdisciplinary (II) requirement. As students move through the Program, they are encouraged to integrate their learning across four overarching themes: diversity, ethics, global issues, and social and environmental engagement.

**Requirements**

*40 credits minimum*

Students complete a total of 40 credits as follows, including a minimum of two courses (8 credits) at the 300 or 400 level. Perspectives or Interdisciplinary (II) courses may require a specific lower level ISP course besides ITW and QL as a prerequisite.

**I. Foundations (8 credits)**

* Thinking and Writing (4 credits)

Students are expected to complete ITW 101 within their first two semesters.

* Quantitative Literacy (4 credits)

Students are expected to complete the quantitative literacy (QL) requirement within their first three semesters. Students may meet the QL requirement by successfully completing IQL 101, MATH 120, MATH 141, MATH 172, MATH 175, or MGT 140.

**II. Three perspectives courses in the Arts and Humanities (12 credits)**Courses must be taken in three different disciplines.

* 1 course in the Humanities (IH)
* 1 course in the Fine and Performing Arts (IA)
* 1 course in either the Humanities or the Fine and Performing Arts (IH or IA)

**III. Three perspectives courses in the Sciences (12 credits)**Courses must be taken in three different disciplines.

* 1 course in the Natural Sciences (IN)
* 1 course in the Social Sciences (IS)
* 1 course in either the Natural or Social Sciences (IN or IS)

**IV. One course in Interdisciplinary Studies (4 credits)**Course may be in any academic discipline (e.g. ENG, BIO, MU) and must have an Integrative Interdisciplinary (II) prefix.

**V. One additional course in the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences or Interdisciplinary area (4 credits)**This ISP elective may be in any academic discipline or interdisciplinary area that carries an ISP prefix (IA, IH, IN, IS, II).

**Upper Level Course Requirement**

A minimum of two upper-level (300 or 400) ISP courses must be completed in areas II, III, IV and V above, one of which must be completed at Keene State College. Students may enroll in upper-level Integrative Studies Program (ISP) courses once they have completed a minimum of 24 credits at the lower-level (100 or 200 level), including ITW 101 and the quantitative literacy (QL) requirement.

**Program Objectives and/or Learning Outcomes**

**Integrative Learning** Keene State College students will identify and discuss ways that their learning in one course informs and deepens their learning in one or more other courses, and the ways that their learning in one or more courses is connected to their out-of-class experiences.

**Academic Perspectives** Keene State College students will demonstrate an understanding of the questions a discipline or an interdisciplinary area asks, the methods it uses to engage those questions, and some of the key explanatory concepts arising from these types of inquiry.

**Critical Thinking** Keene State College students will evaluate evidence, consider multiple perspectives, choose and defend a position from several alternatives, and analyze complex problems.

**Creative Thinking** Keene State College students will synthesize existing ideas, images, or expertise in original ways and demonstrate imagination, risk taking, innovation, or divergent thinking in their work.

**Writing** Keene State College students will effectively form, support, and convey an idea in written format, considering purpose, audience, and context.

**Quantitative Literacy** Keene State College students will read and interpret quantitative information critically and apply quantitative methods and concepts to solve a problem or support an argument.

**Information Literacy** Keene State College students will engage in an iterative inquiry process that includes exploring and evaluating diverse perspectives while participating ethically in the information environment.

**Rationale**

This Proposal endorses the recommendations of the 2011-12 Task Force review of the Integrative Studies Program that included *simplifying* the Program, *creating flexibility*, and *clarifying* program requirements. The Proposal has been strengthened through campus-wide discussions during the 2015-16 academic year, with faculty and other stakeholders, to simplify the Integrative Program Learning Outcomes and the Program Requirements in response to the Senate Executive Committee charge to the ISPC. The SEC charge included 1) engaging the faculty in a discussion of expanded IQL alternatives; 2) reviewing a recommendation that students be allowed to count ISP courses from the same program towards the fulfillment of their ISP requirements, 3) considering allowing some upper-level ISP courses to have prerequisites, and 4) allowing students to transfer in upper-level ISP credits.

There are four changes in this Program Redesign Proposal:

* maintaining the breadth of the program in the perspectives area and offering greater depth by allowing students to repeat disciplines in the ISP elective and II area
* clarifying the Program policy around repeating disciplines in the ISP
* creating flexibility in the upper-level course requirement to meet the needs of current and anticipated students
* allowing prerequisites beyond ITW and the QL requirement for some of the upper-level ISP requirements.

Below are the changes to the program requirements, and a brief rationale for each of the changes, as well as an explanation of the changes to the language of the program requirements:

**One of the two required upper level ISP courses must be taken in residence at KSC**

Current policy requires both of the upper level courses be taken in residence. The change allows flexibility for students studying away, as well as for transfer students.

This policy change provides students with more program flexibility. First, as the College places increasing emphasis on study away options for our students, the residency requirement for the upper-level courses creates challenges for students in completing the academic program. Second, the current policy has made it difficult for transfer students to complete their two programs of study to earn a degree—the College's Integrative Studies Program and their major program of study—in two years. The challenge is a particular issue for transfer students who have completed an associate degree and are transferring to Keene State College.

**Perspectives courses must be taken in six disciplines.** **Beyond the six perspectives courses in different disciplines students may repeat disciplines in meeting their ISP requirements**

Current program requirements require all perspectives courses to be from separate disciplines. This breadth requirement remains in place. However, this proposal makes it clear that students may compliment the intellectual *breadth* in their perspectives requirements (II and III) with greater intellectual *depth* by allowing students to take courses in the ISP elective and the II requirement that repeat perspective disciplines.

This policy change retains the breadth of the ISP—the requirement to complete courses in six separate disciplines in the perspectives area—and opens up the ISP for students to pursue courses in one discipline. This proposed change will facilitate students and faculty advisors building individual ISP pathways that offers students depth in an area of study or understanding. In addition to clarifying the disciplinary breadth requirement in the perspectives are of the ISP, moreover, this change opens pathways for our students to explore a minor. Nurses could take a second Spanish course focusing on vocabulary of the profession. A science major could explore further in an allied field. An artist could count two courses towards a minor.

Finally, now that we have simplified the ISP outcomes and are considering the role of the ISP in meeting the College-Wide Learning Outcomes, this proposed change will facilitate program and curriculum development in the four overarching themes in the ISP: Diversity, Ethics, Global Issues, Social and Environmental Engagement.

**Upper level Perspectives or II courses may require a specific lower level ISP course besides ITW and IQL as a prerequisite**

Current policy precludes disciplinary prerequisites. This policy proposal is designed to work in tandem with the one above.

For many years faculty have commented on, and have encouraged, a program change that would allow for further exploration in a field outside the major. We concur and propose this change as an additional way to make it more likely that students will gain deeper content knowledge in a discipline or interdisciplinary program, and/or use the ISP courses to complete the requirements for a minor.

**In addition to the three primary changes to the program we have updated the introductory preamble in the catalog description of the Program**

We have developed this language in consultation with faculty and current students to underscore the central place of the ISP in the intellectual experience of all students at KSC.

First, we have *deleted* information (such as encouragement to study a language or study away) to focus on the program requirements. Second, we have *simplified* the program description to align with the revised learning outcomes passed by the Senate in the spring of 2016. And third, we have *revised and updated* the language of the preamble to the list of requirements to align with the new ISP Outcomes and the liberal arts mission of the College.

In addition, we have worked on the list of program requirements to address challenges faced by faculty, staff, and students when distinguishing and delineating “disciplines,” “subjects,” and “areas.” To this end, we have added language and parentheticals with prefixes where we believe students, in particular, will benefit from more explicit guidance.

Finally, we have aligned and made consistent the usage around the Quantitative Literacy requirement. The Program has two foundational experiences: a *course*, ITW 101 Thinking and Writing, and a *requirement*, Quantitative Literacy, that can be completed by taking the IQL course or an approved list of alternative courses.

**Resources**

No additional resources are required. We recognize that upper-level courses taken abroad or at other institutions will need to be approved by the Director of the ISP using a course substitution form. This approval process is for courses in area requirements (II, IN, IS, IA, IH). If the course approval is for a disciplinary requirement in the Perspectives area, the chair of the academic program will approve that upper-level ISP substitution.

**Advisory Opinions**

We have consulted with the Senate Chair and the Senate Executive Committee in developing this proposal and no advisory opinions are necessary. The Proposal follows the current Senate **ISP Amendment Policy** (Approved on April 4, 2007):

The Integrative Studies Program Committee (ISPC), any faculty member(s), or academic department(s) may propose a change to the structure, principles, or policies of the Integrative Studies Program by submitting the proposed change in writing to the ISPC. The ISPC will consult with the proposal originator(s), and within three weeks of receiving the proposal, the ISPC will submit the proposal with an advisory opinion to the School Curriculum Committees. The School Curriculum Committees will forward their recommendations to the Senate Curriculum Committee (SCC) and the Academic Standards Committee (ASC). The SCC and ASC will bring their recommendations to the Senate for approval.

However, the chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee, Jennifer Ditkoff, recommended that we follow the SCC Guidelines rather than sending this proposal directly to the school curriculum committees per the 2007 ISP Amendment Policy above. The ISPC is currently reviewing all ISP policies in consultation with the Senate and this policy is among those that will be revised.

**SIGNATURE FORM, 2016-2017**

**Program Title**: Integrative Studies Program

1**. Sponsoring Program**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Integrative Studies Program\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chair Signature: 

 For \_10\_\_ Against \_0\_\_ Abstain\_\_0\_ Absent \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_October 4, 2016\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Dean:**

 Comment: While these measures are needed, we will need to continue to consider how the ISP program as designed meets our needs as a College. The program as it stands may not make the best use of our resources.

 Approved XX Not Approved\_\_\_\_



 Signature: Date November 17, 2016

3. **School Curriculum Committee or the ISP Interdisciplinary Subcommittee:**

 Comment:

 

 For \_\_11\_ Against \_0\_\_ Abstain \_\_0\_ Absent \_\_\_ Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_11/4/16\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Senate Curriculum Committee:**

 Comment:

 For \_\_\_ Against\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_ Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. **Keene State College Senate:**

Passed \_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_ Information\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. **Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs:**

Approved\_\_\_ Not Approved\_\_\_\_ Information\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. **President:**

 Approved\_\_\_ Not Approved\_\_\_\_ Information\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_