## UVic Program Curriculum Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty: Science</th>
<th>Academic Unit: N/A</th>
<th>Date of submission: 23 Oct 2017</th>
<th>Effective date of change: 01 MAY 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type(s) of program change:</strong></td>
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- [ ] Creation, reinstatement, discontinuance, or major modification of a program or credential
- [ ] A minor modification in program or credential that does not significantly change that program or credential's focus, content, structure, or requirements
- [ ] Change in a listing of eligible or elective courses that can be used to meet a program or credential requirement
- [ ] A change in the description of a program or credential not involving any change in program or credential requirements
- [ ] Other: Describe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current calendar entry:</th>
<th>Proposed calendar entry:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Current calendar page number: 245 (Faculty of Science)</td>
<td>If new, suggested page to insert:</td>
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### Student-Designed Minor

Students may undertake an interdisciplinary Minor that is not listed in the Calendar. In addition to the requirements of the Minors listed above, this student-designed Minor must:

- Include courses from at least two departments, with a minimum of 3 units from each department
- Consist of courses taken only at UVic
- Have structure, coherence and theme; it cannot consist of unrelated courses
- Be approved by the Chair/Advisor of the departments concerned
- Be approved by the Associate Dean of Academic Advising of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences
- Be declared by the end of the student's third year

Students must discuss their proposed Student-Designed Minor with the department Chair/Advisors before submitting their request to the Associate Dean of Academic Advising. The Student-Designed Interdisciplinary Minor form is available from the Academic Advising Centre, A205, University Centre.

### Student-Designed Interdisciplinary Minor

Students may undertake an interdisciplinary Minor that is not listed in the Calendar. In addition to the requirements of the Minors listed above, this student-designed Minor must:

- Be distinct from programs already offered at UVic
- Have structure, coherence and theme; it cannot consist of unrelated courses
- Be designed and completed under the supervision of a faculty member
- Consist of 13.5 units, with a minimum of 7.5 units of courses numbered 300 and above
- A minimum of 6.0 units of upper-level coursework must be taken at UVic
- Include courses from at least two departments, with a minimum of 3 units from each department
- Be approved before more than 6.0 units of coursework counting towards the minor has been completed
- Be declared prior to the student achieving fourth-year standing (42.0 units)
- Be approved by the Director of the Office of Interdisciplinary Academic Programs
- Be approved by the Associate Dean of Academic Advising of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences

Students must discuss their proposed Student-Designed Interdisciplinary Minor with the Director of the Office of Interdisciplinary Academic Programs before...
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submitting their request to the Associate Dean of Academic Advising. The Student-Designed Interdisciplinary Minor form is available from the Academic Advising Centre, A203, University Centre.

Rationale for proposed change:

To strengthen the academic quality of the program, provide better guidance to students interested in applying to the Minor, and ease its administration.

Title change: Clarifies but does not change: this minor has always been interdisciplinary, as indicated by the first sentence of the previous entry.

Key requirements and their purpose:

- **"be distinct from programs already offered at UVic"** – on occasion students have applied for a SDIM that is close in purpose to an existing UVic program or programs, apparently because they did not quite meet the requirements of the existing program; the SDIM should be only for situations in which UVic does not offer a relevant credential
- **"be designed and completed under the supervision of a faculty member"** – this is meant to ensure the student has appropriate guidance in developing the theme and required courses for the minor, in part to enhance the minor’s intellectual coherence – requiring a faculty member’s oversight addresses the concern about creating an academic credential outside the regular approval process in a fashion similar to requiring a faculty member’s sponsorship of a directed reading course on a subject not approved through the curriculum approval process
- **"consist of 13.5 units, with a minimum of 7.5 units of courses numbered 300 and above"** – the current Calendar entry does not specify the required number of units - this number of units situates the SDIM between a General and a minor that cannot be counted towards a General degree – it signifies that the SDIM requires significant specialization in a subject
- **"be approved before more than 6.0 units of coursework counting towards the minor has been completed" and "be declared prior to the student achieving fourth-year standing (42.0 units)"** – these two requirements are intended to ensure a SDIM reflects a coherent program of study, rather than an effort to compile a credential from courses already taken
- **"be approved by the Director of the Office of Interdisciplinary Academic Programs"** – currently a SDIM requires approval of “the Chair/Adviser of the departments concerned” – most Chairs and department advisors are unfamiliar with the purpose and requirements of the SDIM, and are not well positioned to assess the overall coherence of a proposed minor or its interaction with existing minor programs already offered at UVic – in practice, the Associate Dean Advising (see below) has consulted informally with the Director of the OIAP in recent years
- **"be approved by the Associate Dean of Academic Advising of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences"** – this existing requirement will continue; between them, the interdisciplinary Director and the Associate Dean Advising can effectively assess the overall coherence of a proposed minor or its interaction with existing minor programs already offered at UVic, and will consult with individual chairs and directors as needed
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### Consultation:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Senate Committee on Planning:</th>
<th>In-progress/Approved</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other units consulted in preparation of submission:</td>
<td>Included: List unit if applicable</td>
<td>No consultation required</td>
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These changes were the result of consultation among the INTD director, Mike Webb; with the Associate Dean, Academic Advising, Cindy Holder; and the associate deans of Science, Social Science, and Humanities (Robin Hicks, Rosaline Canessa, and Lisa Surridge). Identical change forms will be submitted to each faculty council.

Written evidence of all consultations should be included in a single PDF for the entire program package.

See attached memo from Mike Webb, with addendums from all three associate deans regarding one revision (from 4.5 to 6.0 units).