

UVic Program Curriculum Change

			Submission number: 1
Faculty: Science	Academic Unit: N/A	Date of submission: 23 Oct 2017	Effective date of change: 01MAY18
Type(s) of program change:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Creation, reinstatement, discontinuance, or major modification of a program or credential	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in a listing of eligible or elective courses that can be used to meet a program or credential requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: Describe	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A minor modification in program or credential that does not significantly change that program or credential's focus, content, structure, or requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> A change in the description of a program or credential not involving any change in program or credential requirements		
Current calendar entry:		Proposed calendar entry:	
Current calendar page number: 245(Faculty of Science)		If new, suggested page to insert:	
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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/Adviser 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 <p>Students must discuss their proposed Student-Designed Minor with department Chairs/Advisers 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.</p>		<p>Student-Designed <u>Interdisciplinary</u> 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be distinct from <u>programs already offered at UVic</u> • have structure, coherence and theme; it cannot consist of unrelated courses • be designed and completed under the supervision of a faculty member • consist of <u>13.5 units, with a minimum of 7.5 units of courses numbered 300 and above</u> • <u>a minimum of 6.0 units of upper-level coursework must be taken at UVic</u> • include courses from at least two departments, with a minimum of 3 units from each department • <u>be approved before more than 6.0 units of coursework counting towards the minor has been completed</u> • be declared <u>prior to the student achieving fourth-year standing (42.0 units)</u> • be approved by the <u>Director of the Office of Interdisciplinary Academic Programs</u> • be approved by the Associate Dean of Academic Advising of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences <p>Students must discuss their proposed Student-Designed <u>Interdisciplinary</u> Minor with the <u>Director of the Office of Interdisciplinary Academic Programs</u> before</p>	

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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:		
Senate Committee on Planning:	<input type="checkbox"/> In-progress/Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
<p>Other units consulted in preparation of submission: 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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Included: List unit if applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> No consultation <u>required</u>
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).		