

Interdisciplinarity@WMU- Phase One Planning Template

1. **Brief Overview:** Provide a brief overview of the proposed interdisciplinary initiative. What types of questions would the initiative ask? What types of complex problems would it seek to solve?

A graduate certificate in global engagement housed in the department of political science. The certificate would focus on solving world problems from a global perspective; it would engage issues from a policy and social standpoint and look at the role of social movements, mobilization of groups and interests, organizations, etc.

2. **Impacted units:** What existing units, programs, and colleges would be involved in the proposed initiative? What other possibilities for collaboration across campus or in the broader community might exist now or in the future?

The global engagement graduate certificate would overlap and/or be combined with a MIDA degree or the MA in political science. We expect the certificate would require about 18 hours of graduate coursework. The required coursework would include existing graduate courses in political science and graduate courses with a strong international component in other disciplines in CAS such as sociology, history, and economics. No new courses are planned at this time. Thus, the expectation is that the certificate program would only help increase enrollment in existing graduate courses. In future, the requirements might also include internship credits and help build new networks in the community.

3. **Impact on teaching, learning, and curricula:** Describe the anticipated impact of the proposed initiative on teaching, learning, and curricula. How might this initiative help to grow enrollment, including by reaching new audiences of learners through continuing education, dual enrollment, or professional certification? How will the proposed initiative positively impact the training of undergraduate and graduate students? How does it enhance our institutional commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion?

As noted above, we expect this will help boost enrollment in the graduate courses that are included in the certificate program and possibly attract new students who would like the certification but do not seek a regular graduate degree.

4. **Impact on research and creative activity:** Describe the anticipated impact of the proposed initiative on research and creative activity. How will this initiative promote discovery and creative scholarship? How might it result in increased external funding?

Since the proposed graduate certificate in global engagement is interdisciplinary, it will contribute to interdisciplinary research, especially for students who are completing a graduate degree at the same time. That is, anyone student in an MA program at Western could complete the certificate and apply what they have learned from their coursework across disciplines to their own thesis research.

5. **Efficiencies and/or cost savings:** How might the proposed initiative contribute to increased efficiencies and/or cost savings, for example by reducing administrative positions (e.g. chairs/directors), sharing staff support services and/or by sharing facilities?

This certificate program will facilitate even more cooperation across the departments involved. For example, there will be increased communication and coordination of course offerings, graduate research, and best practices. Thus, in addition to increasing enrollment, the expectation is that departments will coordinate more and offer courses that cover similar topics or methods less often and let students fulfill certain requirements in other departments. A certificate program isn't necessary for this kind of coordination, but it is a likely by-product.

6. **Impact on course offerings and workload:** At present, proposed initiatives will only be feasible and sustainable if they can be supported by existing resources, including instructional capacity, faculty and staff time, and facilities. Will the proposed initiative streamline existing course or program offerings? Could the initiative help create more equitable and sustainable workload for faculty, for example, by reducing the need to offer under enrolled courses, reducing the frequency of course offerings or eliminating the need to teach some courses?

The proposed certificate program should help streamline course offerings and will not require additional resources. As noted above, it will require increased communication and coordination across departments who offer courses that fulfill the certificate requirements. All departments involved should benefit from increased enrollment.

7. **Additional Information:** What additional information would you like to provide in support of this proposal?

8. **Contact**

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