

# Multidisciplinary Programs at SFA

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An ad hoc committee composed of Steve Cooper, Michael Janusa, Rick Jones, Matt McBroom, and Brian Murphy was tasked with developing a process to handle multidisciplinary collaboration at the university. The committee recommends its proposal (below) should be considered as administrative guidelines rather than as a formal university policy to enable adaptations to occur as needed.

## A. Administrative Issues

1. A multidisciplinary program is one that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice.
2. For administrative purposes, all university multidisciplinary programs will be housed in the Division of Multidisciplinary Programs.
3. Each multidisciplinary program will have an advisory board composed of faculty currently teaching in the program. Departmental chairs of the units supporting the program are ex officio members of the advisory board.
4. All multidisciplinary programs will be subject to the university's Academic Program Review process.
5. Semester credit hours (SCH) generated in a course belong to the course's home department. The only exception is when a course carries a multidisciplinary designator. In such cases, the Division of Multidisciplinary Programs obtains the SCH.
6. The operating costs (e.g., copying) of a multidisciplinary course would be covered in one of two ways:
  - If a program delivers courses assigned to a specific department, the department will be responsible for course-related expenses.
  - If a course is listed in the Division of Multidisciplinary Programs, the division will be responsible for course-related expenses.
7. The process for creating a new multidisciplinary program is the following:
  - Faculty from two or more departments compose a proposal.
  - The proposal is submitted to the faculty and chairs of the departments involved.
  - The proposal next moves to an assembly of the collective multidisciplinary advisory boards for approval to ensure it is not duplicative of existing programs or courses.
  - The proposal is officially submitted to the university's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee or Graduate Council, respectively.

## B. Faculty Issues

1. All faculty, even if teaching in a multidisciplinary program, are assigned to a home department.
2. Involvement in a multidisciplinary program is voluntary, subject to the home chair's approval.
3. Departments are guaranteed not to lose a line if a multidisciplinary program proves successful.
4. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlines the teaching duties, scholarship expectations, service requirements, and voting privileges of a faculty member participating in a multidisciplinary program.
5. The MOU will address the following issues:

Topic	MOU
Additional title permitted	Yes
Appointment letter issued by	Provost
Participation in governance of home department and advisory board	In initial agreement
Listing in both units' catalog staff listings	Yes
Formalized arrangement regarding service, teaching, and/or research	In initial agreement
Reappointment, tenure, merit and promotion reviews	Home department with input from the Director of Multidisciplinary Programs
Duration of Joint Appointment	Annual but renewable. Either the faculty member or the home chair can terminate an appointment