

Interdisciplinary Sciences Degree Program Assessment Plan

The assessment plan for the B.S. in Interdisciplinary Sciences program consists of two primary components:

1. A biannual review of the core curriculum is conducted by the IS Curriculum Committee. Course materials are reviewed and evaluated by IS faculty to ensure that learning outcomes are being addressed in core courses and that student performance meets department standards. Deficiencies or opportunities for program enhancements identified during the curriculum review may result in recommendations for changes in course requirements, goals, or procedures.
2. The Interdisciplinary Sciences two-semester capstone experience focuses on planning, preparation, and completion of a major research project, and culminates in a research paper, oral defense, and poster presentation of the student's work.
 - a. IS capstone projects are completed under the guidance of a three-person committee composed of the student's academic advisor, an expert representative in the research area (either internal or external to SDSMT), and an IS representative.
 - b. Student research presentations are done in an open colloquium before an audience of peers and IS faculty, which provides an opportunity for consistent review and assessment of all capstone projects.

Interdisciplinary Sciences Degree Program Assessment Plan Outcomes

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE 1: Students will develop a well-defined sense of their professional identities and goals.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will select and implement a curricular program of study that reflects and integrates their intended professional focus.

Assessment Method: The student's IS advisor will review, assess, and approve or require adjustments to the student's Letter of Intent and completed IS worksheet.

Assessment Method: The IS Curriculum Committee will review student Letters of Intent and IS worksheets each semester, and provide approval of those found to meet programmatic standards.

Assessment Method: IS faculty will conduct exit interviews with graduating seniors to determine each student's perception of development and progress toward meeting goals and expectations.

2. Students will receive consistent, knowledgeable advising.

Assessment Method: IS students will complete an Advising Survey as sophomores in IS 201 and again as seniors, in conjunction with their capstone project.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE 2: Students will possess and apply the broadly-based education and basic skills required to achieve their goals.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will design, conduct, and present senior capstone projects that reflect the student's professional career goals and integrate the coursework leading to the degree.

Assessment Method: IS 401 and IS 498 faculty will review and evaluate the capstone projects using writing and oral presentation rubrics.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE 3: Students will be prepared to contribute as professionals and citizens in their communities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Interdisciplinary Science graduates will demonstrate interest in and ability to contribute to their communities.

Assessment Method: Sophomore and senior year surveys to review professional and community service activities; alumni surveys to review professional service activities.