

PROPOSAL: Rename the Student Planned Major to Interdisciplinary Studies

Background

The Undergraduate Studies Council has approved the renaming of the Student Planned Major to Interdisciplinary Studies offered by the College of Arts & Sciences.

The proposed name change is being done for a few reasons:

1. “Interdisciplinary Studies” will offer our students the same opportunity to pitch the strengths of their degree, while also better representing the work being done by our students at a glance.
2. “Interdisciplinary Studies” will offer a more cohesive track for students looking to engage in work that takes place at the intersection of traditional departments.
3. “Interdisciplinary Studies” aligns with research on the value of naming. An extensive body of psychological research supports the idea that how something is named influences how it is perceived, regardless of its actual qualities. Much has already been said about what the name “Interdisciplinary Studies” conveys—a broad-based, well-rounded curriculum undertaken by creative, adaptive, and hardworking students.

Recommended Action

Rename the Student Planned Major to Interdisciplinary Studies.