



ABOUT BRIDGING DISCIPLINES PROGRAMS

A unique and innovative set of certificate programs at the University of Texas at Austin, the Bridging Disciplines Programs (BDPs) allow undergraduate students to develop a secondary area of specialization that complements their major. To earn a BDP certificate, students must complete 19 credit hours combining interdisciplinary coursework with hands-on research, internship, or creative experiences. By studying an issue from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, they become more flexible, versatile thinkers, prepared for a professional world that values collaboration and innovation. Students in the BDPs also gain access to unique research and internship experiences at UT and around the world, giving them hands-on experience applying what they have learned in the classroom.

Formed in 2002, the Bridging Disciplines Programs (BDPs) are housed within the School of Undergraduate Studies, which provides a diverse set of programs and resources that traverse boundaries between colleges and disciplines and enhance the quality of undergraduate education. To date, we have about 700 current students actively pursuing the various BDP certificates, and over 1,500 alumni who have completed BDPs.

CONTACT US

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STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

"I loved the BDP program. Some of the internships I had through the program helped me on my path to my current job."

"My BDP connecting experience was at the agency with whom I currently work. It was a great opportunity to get to know the community and decide if it was an area I was interested in pursuing. It was!"

"My BDP experience encouraged me to take classes that challenged me and helped me grow as a leader. It also opened doors for me to participate in internships and research experiences I would not have known to pursue on my own. When I go in for job interviews, I have numerous examples to draw from that stem directly from my BDP internship experiences."

"The BDP was an unparalleled opportunity to get more than the normal, average college education experience.... [W]ithout it I would not have had the opportunities I had to combine interdisciplinary coursework, research, internships, even a paid student job, and study abroad programs into an 'outside the box' college education. So much of my learning took place outside the classroom, and because of that I think I have always been ahead of the game compared to the average college grad."



BDP CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Children & Society: Explores the development of children and the social forces that impact them.

Conflict Resolution & Peace Studies: Promotes conflict resolution in interpersonal, institutional, societal, and global contexts.

Design Strategies: Teaches students to apply a multidisciplinary framework for human-centered design thinking in order to solve product, systems, service, and social problems.

Digital Arts & Media: Explores the use of computer technology and production techniques to create digital art.

Environment & Sustainability: Examines a variety of disciplinary approaches to environmental processes and contemporary environmental issues.

Ethics & Leadership in Business: Examines issues of morality applicable to business people and organizations.

Ethics & Leadership in Health Care: Study of ethical issues in health care policy, administration, and delivery.

Ethics & Leadership in Law, Politics & Government: Explores law, politics, and government through the lens of leadership and ethics.

Human Rights & Social Justice: Introduces students to the study and practice of domestic and international human rights issues.

Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship: Teaches students how to develop entrepreneurial start-ups, understand contexts for innovation, and explore creative processes relevant to their interests.

Museum Studies: Explores how museums, archives, libraries, galleries, and related institutions function as sites of collecting, education, and research.

Patients, Practitioners & Cultures of Care: Offers a transdisciplinary curriculum to explore health, health care, healing, and social justice issues from a rich variety of humanistic perspectives.

Public Policy: Examines the development and implementation of public policy, focusing on how change happens.

Smart Cities: Explores how new technologies such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things are changing how cities deliver services, as well as the ethical, social, and policy implications of these innovations.

Social Entrepreneurship & Non-profits: Introduces students to social enterprise and administration of non-profit organizations.

Social Inequality, Health & Policy: Examines the causes and consequences of disparities in health, life expectancy, and medical care delivery in the world today.

BDP BY THE NUMBERS

