Bridging Disciplines Programs

The University of Texas at Austin
School of Undergraduate Studies

A few facts to consider:

1) Today's 48 year olds have changed jobs almost 12 times. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

2) Experts predict that today's student will change jobs more often than today's employees.

3) Experts predict today's student will change careers more than once.

4) Experts predict that today's students' last career has not been invented yet.

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Bridging Disciplines Programs

- 16 interdisciplinary certificates
- Complement a range of majors
- Develop a secondary specialization while satisfying degree requirements – does not extend time to degree
- May satisfy core, elective, and some major requirements

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Bridging Disciplines Programs

- 19 credit hours:
  - ➢ BDP 101 forum seminar
  - ➢ Interdisciplinary coursework, drawn from existing course offerings across campus
  - ➢ Connecting Experiences: research, internships, and creative projects
  - ➢ Integration essay

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Bridging Disciplines Programs

- Give students a sophisticated interdisciplinary understanding of complex topics
- Prepare students for a professional world that values innovation, flexibility, and collaboration
- Overseen by cross-college faculty committees
- About 700 active students

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Example: BDP Student Pathway

Taylor McCaslin
Major: Theatre & Dance
BDP: Digital Arts & Media
Graduated: Spring 2013

BDP Coursework:

BDP 101: Exploring Digital Arts and Media
Radio-TV-Film 319: Intro to Digital Media
Computer Science 302: Computer Fluency
Computer Science 313: Elements of Software Design
Computer Science 329E: Computing in Society
Theatre and Dance 354T: Projection Design

BDP Connecting Experiences:

Internship: Assistant Stage Manager for Rude Mechanicals

Creative Project: Created a digital information management system for a theatre festival, and presented his work at a national interactive design conference

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Example: BDP Student Pathway

Taylor McCaslin
Major: Theatre & Dance
BDP: Digital Arts & Media
Graduated: Spring 2013

Career since leaving UT:

Current:
- Senior Product Manager, Data Science at New Knowledge

Past positions:
- WP Engine (Product Manager)
- Indeed.com (Interaction Designer)
- LIN Digital (Creative Developer)

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"The projects I worked on during my Connecting Experiences gave me a portfolio showcasing how I could apply technology to solve real life problems. I leveraged that portfolio while interviewing with companies after graduation, which ultimately helped me break into the tech industry."

"During the program … I developed a new way of thinking across disciplines…. This cross-disciplinary thinking opens you up in a way that employers value. They see your ability to solve problems across functions and departments, and in our ever-more-connected world, this is a huge asset that makes you stand out in the job market."

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BDP Certificates

Children and Society
Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies
Design Strategies
Digital Arts and Media
Environment and Sustainability
Ethics and Leadership in Business
Ethics and Leadership in Health Care
Ethics and Leadership in Law, Politics, and Government
Human Rights and Social Justice
Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship
Museum Studies
Patients, Practitioners, and Cultures of Care (NEW)
Public Policy
Smart Cities (NEW)
Social Entrepreneurship and Non-profits
Social Inequality, Health, and Policy

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Impact

BDP NUMBERS

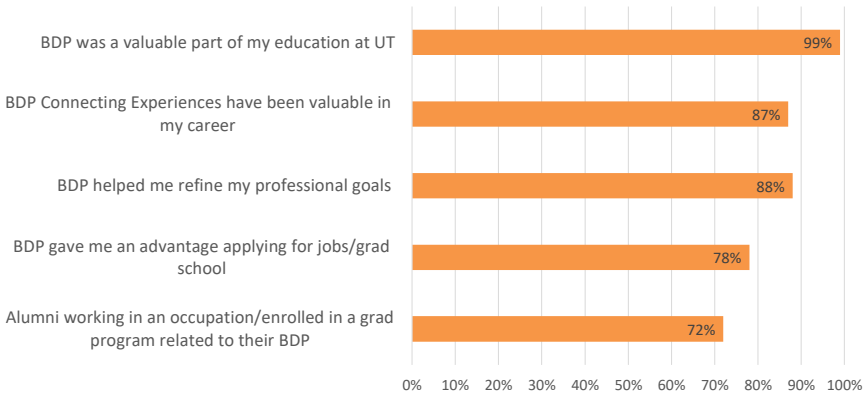|	
700	ACTIVE STUDENTS
1,534	ALUMNI TO DATE
228	2019 INTERNSHIPS
237	2019 RESEARCH PROJECTS
78%	GRADUATE IN 4 YEARS
100%	GRADS SATISFIED OVERALL

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Impact

SURVEY OF BDP ALUMNI

BDP was a valuable part of my education at UT	99%
BDP Connecting Experiences have been valuable in my career	87%
BDP helped me refine my professional goals	88%
BDP gave me an advantage applying for jobs/grad school	78%
Alumni working in an occupation/enrolled in a grad program related to their BDP	72%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

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