

## **Project: Interdisciplinary Intersections**

Two foci of emerging strategic plan: Intersections and Mentoring

Creating intersections and mentoring are two activities that we do really well. We will build on that strength, using those two concepts to shape strategic directions for the university toward enhancing the student experience.

**Our goal is to engage in interdisciplinary work and mentoring in a collective way that distinguishes the university. We will be best in class.**

“Intersections” designates all the kinds of collaborations—the ANDs—that constitute experiences and programs at Alfred University: teacher and learner, study and work, theory and practice, student and athlete, curricular and extra-curricular (clubs and organizations), interdisciplinary pursuits.

The “interdisciplinary” part of “intersections” is of central importance to Academic Affairs. We will make explicit and create interdisciplinary paths for our students.

While we want students to be able to create or structure their own paths, we also want the paths to already be there. They exist much like viewing an aerial map. The possibilities are there for them to discover. Creating one’s own path is not easy and has been pursued only by our best students. We want this possibility for all students. Making this possible involves curricula, advising, and environment.

Ways to conceptualize what we mean by interdisciplinary paths:

- 1) Degree paths—dual degrees, dual majors, minors
- 2) Interdisciplinary programs or majors
- 3) Collaborative, interdisciplinary courses
- 4) Shared experiences such as the Undergraduate Research Forum
- 5) Advising—exploring a students’ interests, keeping their options open, advising in/to other areas other than one’s major.

Criteria for what we will do:

- Builds on what we have
- Appeals to students coming up
- Identifiable career paths and need

**Project Lead:** Dobie

**Project Manager:** Jean Cardinale

White paper outline:

- ◆ Articulate conceptualization of the project
- ◆ Explain why this is a valuable pursuit; what we expect to gain or produce

- ◆Address how the AU community will be engaged (e.g, series of conversations, collection of data, open fora, development of an “excellence team” to advise and consult, etc.)
- ◆Analyze research findings that give context to the project
- ◆Enumerate the projects or tasks to be completed
- ◆Develop a timeline and assign responsibility for completion
- ◆Address resources needed (new and/or reallocation)
- ◆Detail how we will determine success (i.e., how will we know that it is “working”, that we are doing it well, how will we evaluate in an ongoing fashion)