

TO: Dr. Laretta Henderson, Dean, College of Education
Members of College of Education Curriculum Committee

FROM: Dr. Jim Howley, Director, BA in General Studies

RE: Change General Studies program name to Interdisciplinary Studies

DATE: November 30, 2020

Action Requested: Change the General Studies (BGS) program name to Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS)

Effective Date: Fall 2021

Rationale: The change in program name from General Studies (BGS) to Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) is being requested for the following reasons:

- National/regional trends: Nationally, the General Studies name has been changed at major programs. Arizona State University was a national leader in changing their program name to Interdisciplinary Studies; programs across the country followed suit, including three of the five former Board of Governors programs in Illinois.
- Program marketability: Prospective students do not understand the program based on the name, General Studies. Interdisciplinary Studies provides a more nuanced name for the program.
- Student marketability; For students who choose to transition careers, the General Studies name may hamper their job hunting success, whereas the Interdisciplinary Studies name provides for greater recognition.
- Confusion around General Education: Confusion around General Education and General Studies continues with the current program name. Interdisciplinary Studies would solve this issue.

Approved by the Program: November 25, 2020