

APR 10 2015

JAMICE INDRUTZ  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY CORPORATE SECRETARY  
Office of the Dean

MEMORANDUM

TO: Debasish Dutta, Provost

FROM: Gary Bertoline, Dean *GB*

DATE: March 27, 2015

RE: New Degree Program

We are proud to submit our proposal for a **Bachelor of Science in Transdisciplinary Studies in Technology** offered by the College of Technology at Purdue University in the West Lafayette campus. It is aligned with the Purdue 2013 strategic direction in undergraduate education: accessibility, affordability, and student success. This degree is a faculty-driven initiative with broad support from the President and Board of Trustees who approved the Purdue Polytechnic Initiative as one of the ten *Purdue Moves* initiatives. The degree architecture supports the student's intrinsic motivation by combining technology and other fields of study to identify and explore a contemporary issue that serves as their foundation for their learning plan. The degree is competency-based, allowing the students to learn as fast as they can without barriers and as slow as they need without penalties. It is focused on educational attainment ensuring that students graduate when they can demonstrate expertise in a set of key competencies.

The degree proposal has been vetted through the governance process in the College of Technology and the Associate Deans from the other colleges on the West Lafayette Campus. Administrative offices involved in the logistics such as the offices of the registrar, bursar, financial aid, enrollment management, and IT, have also been key collaborators in making this degree logistically feasible.

Recommended Approval:

*[Signature]*

Debasish Dutta, Provost

3-27-15

Date

Approved:

*[Signature]*

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., President

3/30/15

Date



**B.S. in Transdisciplinary Studies in Technology  
To Be Offered by Purdue University at West Lafayette**

**Executive Summary**

We propose a Bachelor of Science in Transdisciplinary Studies in Technology offered by the College of Technology at Purdue University in the West Lafayette campus. It is aligned with the Purdue 2013 strategic direction in undergraduate education: accessibility, affordability, and student success. This degree is a faculty-driven initiative with broad support including the President and Board of Trustees who approved this as one of the ten *Purdue Moves* initiatives, and offices involved in the logistics (registrar, bursar, financial aid, enrollment management, IT, etc.), collaborating in making this degree happen. The degree has three distinguishing characteristics all focused on the student:

1. Its architecture supports the student in exploring and identifying a contemporary issue around which they design their learning plan combining technology with other fields of study.
2. It is self-paced allowing the students to learn as fast as they can without barriers and as slow as they need without penalties. This is done through a competency-based approach being implemented at Purdue with support from all administrative offices.
3. It is focused on educational attainment ensuring that students graduate when they can demonstrate expertise in a set of key competencies. The competency-based approach is also the vehicle for this aspect.

The student must demonstrate expertise in eight broadly defined primary competencies in order to graduate. Each of the eight primary competencies is comprised of several performance level sub-competencies. Performance level competencies are those that map most directly to Purdue Core Foundational and Embedded outcomes, which then map to traditional course learning outcomes. Disciplinary departments help define performance level competencies and their faculty will have full control in assessing and granting them.

A new mechanism, called an electronic portfolio (ePortfolio) is instantiated for each student enrolled in the Transdisciplinary Studies program. The ePortfolio is a digital repository used by the student to attach artifacts that demonstrate their level of expertise in the eight primary competencies. The ePortfolio is attached to their academic record when the degree is awarded. A team consisting of personnel from the College of Technology, Admissions, Enrollment Management, and IT is working together to manage ePortfolios and other logistical elements required to operationalize the program.

The proposed degree will be offered when approved to start in the Fall of 2015. The principles and approaches of the degree are being piloted in the 2014-2015 academic year with students from different majors, primarily from the College of Technology.