

Statement of Interdisciplinarity

I am an interdisciplinary studies major studying three disciplines: computer science, business, and technical writing. I originally began my journey as a computer science major but as I took more elective classes in the arts, I slowly realized I had a strength in analyzation and writing. It was a challenging process switching over from the sciences to the arts, but ultimately it was the right decision for me. After talking to my engineering advisor about this change, we discussed my options moving forward and he shed light about a new path – interdisciplinary studies. With that, I discovered I wanted to put my writing skills towards what I already know, learn new applicable knowledge, and here is where I ended up.

Interdisciplinarity is the integration of more than one discipline to synthesize and formulate new knowledge, ideologies, and principles. Interdisciplinarity is relevant when figuring out solutions towards present-day problems by tackling issues through the perspectives of multiple disciplines as not one singular discipline itself can provide a strong answer for any complex real-world problem. The specific disciplines of my interdisciplinarity are computer science, business, and technical writing. Computer science focuses on computers, logic, algorithms, and technical solutions that relate towards theoretical, real-world, and practical applications. Computer science is the process of solving complex problems based off of experiments and data collection as technology is critically important in nearly every modern-day industry. Business emphasizes economic principles, marketing strategies, and laws and regulations which regard the fundamental purpose of a business – to exchange goods and services for a profit. The discipline of business focuses on providing practical modern-day solutions for both the organization and the consumer through different aspects including accounting, human resources, marketing, and a lot more. Lastly, technical writing involves understanding complex information and communicating it by simplifying that information into accurate and understandable writing. Technical writers formulate this information by proactively applying their knowledge of that concept and presenting it to an audience who may not have had that technical proficiency.

By studying this specific combination of fields, I am able to apply all three of my disciplines to real-world and practical problems. An intersection between my disciplines is that all three share a core belief in creating a user-friendly solution. Computer science was founded on the idea that technology would provide a solution at the ease of a button for all users. Businesses start because they expand on the idea of solving a modern-day problem for a specific consumer. Technical writers are designed to solve the issue of the readability gap between developers and end users. This core belief allows me to understand each of my disciplines through rendering perspectives from a developer, businessman, and writer when creating a user-friendly solution. A disagreement that my disciplines possess; however, is that all of their phenomena vary substantially. Computer science focuses on algorithms and programming, business focuses on applications of economics, and technical writing focuses on the interpretation of difficult concepts. These disagreements build on my interdisciplinarity as I am able to contribute different technical knowledge that can transform into knowing both sides as a developer and a reader. This is a primary advantage as technical writers need to know how to do both; they need to understand business principles to write about business principles. Through studying each of these phenomena, I will be the bridge that helps users by writing and communicating efficient, clear, and concise technical information.

In the workplace, it is important to encompass a strong set of values. When studying my disciplines, each of them value humility, appreciation of diversity, and a love of learning. Humility is a core value as technical writers must be able to ask questions, be open to critiques, and allow for multiple perspectives to produce effective work. Appreciation of diversity is a value that provides respect for all people with different levels of knowledge ranging from beginner to professional. Technical writers provide clear information through operating manuals, system procedures, and documentations to different stakeholders including developers, managers, and, most importantly, customers. Developers and managers are able to communicate and connect with me as a technical writer when going through writing revisions because of my technical knowledge in software and business structures. Love of learning is the strongest value that my disciplines possess as each of my disciplines are growing which requires a technical writer to constantly be learning and growing their knowledge base. Studying my specific combination of disciplines, I have both values and fundamental knowledge of both computer science and business concepts which provides a base set of skills for any technical writing projects.