REQUEST TO ADD AN UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AND/OR REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION ON THE UNIVERSITY TRANSCRIPTS

1. **Type of Proposal**
   - New Certificate Program (requiring THECB notification only)
   - Change an Existing Certificate Program
   - Delete a Program

2. **Scope of Proposed Change**
   a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? If yes, then how?
      
      Yes. The certificate is also available to students seeking degrees in the College of Liberal Arts. Thus this legislation is being presented there as well.

   b. Will students in other degree programs be impacted (are the proposed changes to courses commonly taken by students in other colleges)? If yes, explain?
      
      No. This is not a degree program change. The certificate program is purely elective for Liberal Arts students and many Natural Sciences students.

   c. Will students from your college take courses in other colleges?
      
      No.

   **If the answer to 2a, 2b, or 2c is “yes”:**
   How many students do you expect to be impacted?

      Current enrollment in the program is 252; we project that, by academic year 2014, when the changes would take effect, enrollment will be close to 300.

      Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:
      Person communicated with: Richard Flores, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts
      Date of communication: February 14, 2013
      Response: Acceptable

3. **Official Certificate Name:**
   new name: Evidence and Inquiry Certificate
   replacing: Texas Interdisciplinary Plan (Texas IP) Certificate

4. **Proposed Implementation Date:**
   Fall semester 2014

5. **CIP Code** (administrative unit awarding the certificate):
   Administrative units are the College of Liberal Arts and the Office for Honors Research and International Study in the College of Natural Sciences.

6. **Statement of Objective:**
   See “Texas Interdisciplinary Plan (IP) Certificate” in “Degrees and Programs”, Natural Sciences

Impact statement #2 last modified February 13, 2012.
b. Remove RHE 309S / 309K requirement

c. Modify “Critical Thinking Seminar” requirement (referred to in proposed catalog copy as “Signature course” requirement) to include UGS 303, Originality in the Arts and Sciences

d. Add fourth field course requirement.

7. **Number of Students Expected to Receive the Certificate Each Semester:**

25 to 40

8. **Number of Hours Required for Completion:**

18

9. **List Faculty on the Certificate Program Faculty Committee:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Faculty Member</th>
<th>College/Department</th>
<th>Title at UT Austin</th>
<th>Highest Degree and Awarding Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brent Iverson* (Program Chair)</td>
<td>Chemistry and Biochemistry/ Natural Sciences</td>
<td>Professor, Chair</td>
<td>Ph.D., California Institute of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mia Carter*</td>
<td>English/Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Starbird*</td>
<td>Mathematics/ Natural Sciences</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D., University of Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arturo De Lozanne*</td>
<td>Biological Sciences/Natural Sciences</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D., Stanford University School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Loving*</td>
<td>Psychology/Liberal Arts; and Human Ecology/Natural Sciences</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D., Purdue Univeristy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. **Academic Course Requirements:** Use this table to identify the courses that qualify for this certificate program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Abbreviation and Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>SCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UGS 303</td>
<td>Originality in the Arts and Sciences; Research Methods; Critical Thinking for the 21st Century</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Four 3-credit-hour courses in the student’s field of study and approved by faculty on student’s proposal</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSC / LA 371</td>
<td>Capstone Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. **Other Certificate Requirements:**

Students must be seeking a degree in the College of Natural Sciences or the College of Liberal Arts.

12. **Give a Detailed Rationale for Change(s):**

Each rationale is for the objective mentioned in #6 above:

a. **Changing name from “Texas Interdisciplinary Plan (IP) Certificate” to “Evidence and Inquiry Certificate”**
Effective April 2013, the Texas IP program is being moved out of the Texas Interdisciplinary Plan to host a third honors community, alongside Dean’s Scholars and Health Science Honors, in the College of Natural Sciences. The new honors community is designed for outstanding science majors with demonstrated interests and talents outside the sciences. By fall 2016, it is estimated that over half of the certificate program’s participants will be honors students seeking majors in the College of Natural Sciences. The certificate program will, however, remain open by direct application to highly motivated students in the College of Liberal Arts.

Since its inception, there has been confusion over whether students seeking a Texas IP certificate are TIP Scholars. (TIP Scholars is a first-year support program.) In AY 2012-13, only about 20 percent of IP students had also been in TIP. In addition, “Texas IP”—the “IP” stands for “interdisciplinary plan”—didn’t describe the most unique aspect of the program, which is the freedom to design and propose a curriculum based on the student’s own questions of interest outside her major. Three years ago, faculty and staff began to brainstorm names that would reflect this novel aspect of the program. After it was decided to name the new honors community University Fellows, faculty and staff arrived at the name “Evidence and Inquiry” for the certificate itself: “evidence,” since it’s the main product of a major research university; “inquiry,” since the students are required to develop questions based on evidence to shape their fields of study.

b. Remove RHE 309S / 309K requirement

The decision to remove the RHE 309S / 309K requirement is based on four reasons. First, almost a third of students in the program arrive at UT with dual credit for RHE 309K. Second, since students must have two writing flags to graduate, the requirement to take RHE 309S / 309K does not increase their writing instruction. Third, it was decided that a fourth field of study class was needed, and that adding 3 additional hours would make it harder for students to fit the program within a four-year plan. The RHE requirement would be removed to keep the curriculum total at 18 credit hours. Fourth, it was felt that more upper-division coursework should be required. (See “Add fourth field course requirement” below).

c. Modify “Critical Thinking Seminar” requirement (referred to in proposed catalog copy as “Critical thinking or research methods course” requirement) to include UGS 303, Originality in the Arts and Sciences

While UGS 303 / Critical Thinking in the 21st Century and UGS 303 / Research Methods will still fulfill the Signature course requirement for this certificate, Originality in the Arts and Sciences would become the course that most students seeking this certificate take in their first semester. Our students create their fields of study based on questions that require expertise from at least two disciplines; thus their proposal requires that they receive training in asking productive interdisciplinary questions. The Originality course will provide ideal preparation for this work: the course is inquiry-directed, requiring students to develop research projects based on questions appropriate to a variety of disciplines. Students may discuss course substitutions for this requirement with the adviser if they completed a UGS 302 or 303 topic that is not on the approved list.

d. Add fourth field course requirement

Faculty sought to make the curriculum more rigorous by exchanging the 3 lower-division RHE hours for an additional upper-division 3-hour field course, providing students more preparation for their Capstone research project. The current field course requirement is for 9 credit hours, 6 of which can be lower-division. This makes it possible to include only two upper-division courses in the curriculum. Under the present proposal, at least 9 credit hours (6 from field courses, 3 from the Capstone) must be upper-division.
13. College/School Approval Process:
Approver: Course and Curriculum Committee; Sacha Kopp       Date:   April 16, 2013
Title:    Associate Dean for Curriculum and Programs

14. Undergraduate Catalog Copy

Texas IP Evidence and Inquiry Certificate

The Texas Interdisciplinary Plan (Texas IP) Evidence and Inquiry Certificate allows students to design a field of study shaped by questions that require evidence and methodologies outside their major. Students work with faculty and academic consultants to identify interests, map them onto academic disciplines at UT-Austin, and determine questions related to those interests that might be answerable by research that combines expertise from at least two disciplines. Students describe their field of study, identify primary questions, name two UT-Austin faculty members with research experience relevant to their field, and justify the courses they would take in a written proposal that must be approved by a member of the program’s faculty panel. Pursue an integrated course of study with a focus on the development and application of critical thinking skills. The curriculum is designed to complement the student’s major with an interdisciplinary sequence of courses that may encompass the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, and the arts. Students have the opportunity to present an original research project in a capstone seminar.

Those who plan to pursue the certificate should apply to the program adviser for admission no later than the end of their sophomore third long semester year. Read more information about the Texas IP Evidence and Inquiry Certificate is given at http://www.utexas.edu/tip/TexasIP/ http://ufellows.cns.utexas.edu/.

The certificate program requires eighteen semester hours of coursework, including at least nine hours completed in residence. Students must meet the following requirements:

1. Critical thinking or research methods course from an approved list available from the adviser. The approved list may include Thinking Seminar One of the following courses: Liberal Arts 302, Philosophy 311, Natural Sciences 301C (Topic: Research Methods), 302, 311, Undergraduate Studies 303 (One of the following topics: Thinking About Thinking across the Disciplines Originality in the Arts and Sciences; Research Methods; or Critical Thinking for the 21st Century). Other topics or courses may be eligible for substitution by petition.

2. Critical Writing Seminar: Rhetoric and Writing 309K or 309S, with other Rhetoric and Writing courses eligible for substitution on a petition basis.

3. Three Four additional courses, including at least three six semester hours of upper-division coursework, from an interdisciplinary topic area student’s approved Evidence and Inquiry field of study, prescribed by the Texas Interdisciplinary Plan; or, with approval of the Texas IP Faculty Advisory Panel, a three-course interdisciplinary topic area designed by the student.

4. Senior Capstone Seminar: Liberal Arts 371 or Natural Sciences 371

In the College of Liberal Arts, a student whose major includes a minor may use the Texas IP Evidence and Inquiry curriculum as the minor if he or she completes the Texas IP Evidence and Inquiry coursework and if the minor is not specified by the major department. Final approval of the Texas IP Evidence and Inquiry minor coursework rests with the College of Liberal Arts associate dean for academic affairs or the associate dean’s authorized representative.

In the College of Natural Sciences, the Texas IP Evidence and Inquiry Certificate may be used to complement any major. Some certificate courses will also fulfill degree requirements established by the student’s major department and are noted when they appear; however, some of the eighteen semester hours required for the certificate may be in addition to the number of hours required for the degree.
Please include a draft of the catalog copy immediately following the above form. If this is an update of an existing copy, the draft should be based on the text of the current catalog available at: http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/2012-2013/uc_change/cat_copy/catcopy.html. Strike through and replace only the specific language to be changed. Submit form electronically to the Office of the General Faculty and Faculty Council at fc@austin.utexas.edu. For questions, please also email or call 471-5936.

1 Minimum Criteria for Certificate Recognition on the Transcript
   a) The transcript-recognized undergraduate academic certificate program must be completed in conjunction with or within one year of completion of an undergraduate degree at The University of Texas at Austin; students pursuing an integrated undergraduate/graduate program must complete the requirements for the certificate within one year after completing the undergraduate requirements of their program. A maximum of nine credit hours in the certificate program may be taken after completion of the undergraduate degree.
   b) Transcript-recognized undergraduate academic certificate programs must require a minimum of 18 hours of certificate course work, but not more than 24 hours.
   c) At least half of the required coursework in the certificate program must be completed in residence at The University of Texas at Austin.
   d) A student may not earn a certificate in the same field of study as his or her major, and at least one course required in the certificate program must be outside the requirements of the major. However, courses in the certificate program outside the major may fulfill other degree requirements such as general education requirements or required elective hours.
   e) Students apply for transcript recognized undergraduate academic certificates at the time they complete their undergraduate degree or the certificate program, whichever comes later. Transcript recognition is awarded at that time.


3 Certificates will not appear on the University transcripts until next catalog.

4 Use the federal CIP code selector site to pick a code, http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode. After all other areas of this form are completed, forward a copy to Information Management and Analysis (IMA) IMA@austin.utexas.edu with a request to verify the CIP code (“CIP CODE” in the subject line). Include your contact information, so an IMA member may contact you with any questions.

5 Include heading in Undergraduate Catalog where changes will be made.

6 See footnote 1b above: 18-24 hours are required.

7 For inclusion on transcripts, the faculty committee must have a minimum of five members and at least 2/3 of the committee must be tenured or tenure-track.

Note with an asterisk those faculty members who are tenured or tenure-track. Please also note the program chair who will be responsible for authorizing the students’ certificates. Specify changes to the committee membership by noting those no longer on the committee and those added to the committee. (Add and delete rows as needed.)

8 Note with an asterisk (*) courses that would be added if the certificate program is approved. Specify changes to the qualifying courses by noting those no longer qualifying and those now qualifying. (Add and delete rows as needed.) If the course numbers and titles change on a regular basis, please indicate the types of courses and number of hours for required for each.

Note with a hashtag (#) courses that require a prerequisite and provide the prerequisite course numbers.

9 Semester Credit Hours.