**Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary**

**Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinarity** We talk a lot about both of these terms, embedding them in various General Education course/seminar criteria. While both have very comparable meanings and applications they also have subtle distinguishing characteristics (Eigenbrode, O’Rourke and others 2007 and their Tool Box Cross-disciplinary collaboration studies). For our General Educational purposes, we can use both interchangeably.

Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary educational experiences and research is conducted by students and professors from different disciplines designed to address a specific question or problem. The theory, analytical methods, and interpretive standards of the different disciplines are more or less equally employed. Student and faculty collaborators accept, understand, and sometimes apply one another’s disciplinary methods and approaches. The specific question or problem addressed can be understood and interpreted from the differing disciplines applied, often leading to shared integrated understandings and interpretations and to the possibility of new questions being asked.

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