**Creating Threads for the Degree Design Lab: A Quick Primer**

**What is a thread?** Threads are 24-credit or 33-credit course sequences that students in the Degree Design Lab program can combine with other threads and minors to create their customized degree.

**What considerations are important to consider when designing a thread?** In the Degree Design Lab, a thread is an integral part of a student’s customized major (which, for Marketing reasons, is called in some places an “Integrative Professional Studies” degree). Therefore, it should correspond to thoughtfully chosen learning outcomes and include enough upper level-course work to provide in-depth knowledge and understanding (\*). Threads from existing programs will likely be more straightforward to construct, but cross-programmatic threads are welcomed as well.

**Who designs the thread and chooses the learning outcomes?** Program faculty will design their threads and map the coursework to their chosen program learning outcomes, as they are the ones with the appropriate expertise to do so.

**What is involved in submitting a thread through curriculum?**  Submitting a thread is similar to creating a minor. Program faculty will identify the sequence of courses and the learning outcomes, and provide a learning outcomes curriculum map for the sequence. They should also make note of any particularities in terms of how the sequences should be built into the DDL student’s landscape (ie: Course X and Course Y are best taken in the same semester) while recognizing that flexibility is an overarching goal of the DDL program. Program faculty do not need to engage in program assessment, because once passed, the threads become part of the DDL degree (which the DDL lead faculty are responsible for). The template for creating a thread can be found here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xoNV0UJNH2KV1ldxAhOBdLtc9aQVCsumTXL6uw7-K1g/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xoNV0UJNH2KV1ldxAhOBdLtc9aQVCsumTXL6uw7-K1g/edit)

**How does the approval process work?** Once the thread is launched in Curriculog, DDL Lead faculty will be informed and division faculty from the corresponding program(s) vote to approve, then the Curriculum Committee, and finally the full Faculty Senate.

**Who should I consult if I have other questions or need help?** The DDL Lead Faculty (Cyndi Brandenburg, Aziz Fatnassi, Mike Kelly, and Craig Pepin) are always available. Tony Perriello and Ellen Zeman are also excellent at assisting with the completion of the Curriculog proposal. Send any of us an email or give us a call.

*\*According to NECHE (formerly NEASC), the major program of study should afford the student “the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in a specific disciplinary or clearly articulated interdisciplinary area above the introductory level through properly sequenced course work or competencies. Requirements for the major or area of concentration are based upon clear and articulated learning objectives, including a mastery of the knowledge, information resources, methods, and theories pertinent to a particular area of inquiry. Through the major or concentration, the student develops an understanding of the complex structure of knowledge germane to an area of inquiry and its interrelatedness to other areas of inquiry. For programs designed to provide professional training, an effective relationship exists between curricular content or competencies and effective practice in the field of specialization. Graduates demonstrate an in-depth understanding of an area of knowledge or practice, its principal information resources, and its interrelatedness with other areas.”*