

Student-defined Second Discipline

Every IT major is required to complete a Second Discipline – a set of (typically four) courses that represents a concentration in a specific domain area. The intention of this course work is to prepare the IT graduate for employment within that domain. Although the CS department has a number of defined Second Disciplines, it understands that some students may wish to study a domain area that the department has not previously defined. As a result, students may formally propose a Second Discipline of their own design.

A proposal for a student-designed Second Discipline should begin with a description of the intended domain. This may be relatively brief, particularly if the domain is well recognized (such as one represented by a UNH department), or it may be more involved (particularly if the student is suggesting a novel approach). In either case, it is recommended that the proposal be developed in conjunction with one or more UNH faculty members who teach or do research in the proposed domain.

The proposal should then articulate how the intended sequence of (a minimum of) four courses will meet the following general criteria: (a) exposure to the particular approach of the discipline, including key concepts, terminology, and methods; (b) exposure to the behavior of complex organizations (either general or domain specific); (c) focus on the data requirements of the discipline. It is understood that due to limitations such as the extent of UNH course offerings, one or more of the above criteria may be difficult to meet, in which case the student should explain the limitations and why the proposed Second Discipline is still appropriate.

The proposal should also contain a list of the UNH catalog descriptions for all the courses involved, along with notes as appropriate to indicate why each course is included. It is understood that, like the department-defined Second Disciplines, a student-defined one may contain both required and elective courses, allowing the student to determine later, as study of the domain progresses, which (minimum of four) courses will eventually be taken to complete the Second Discipline.

The proposal should be submitted to the IT program director for approval at an appropriate point in the student's academic career, typically no later than the end of the sophomore year.

Any questions regarding the above requirements should be directed to the IT program director: Israel Yost - israel.yost@unh.edu