



Beyond Boundaries Program

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Curriculum

Phase 1: Foundation (Years 1 and 2)

Year 1 (6 required credits)

Year 1 requirements include an introductory curricular sequence that teaches writing, the framework of interdisciplinary study, and collaborative problem solving, as well as one Beyond Boundaries course:

- Beyond Boundaries Seminar (3 credits total, 1 credit in fall and 2 credits in spring)
- Beyond Boundaries Courses (3 credits, 1 course in fall or spring)

College Writing (a supporting course): Analytical, communication, and research skills are critical to interdisciplinary practice. Through College Writing, students will have the opportunity to practice these skills in skills through a variety texts, contexts, and approaches they can carry with them in the Beyond Boundaries Program.

Fall Semester

- Beyond Boundaries Seminar (1 credit, Beyond Boundaries Program students only)
- One Beyond Boundaries Course (3 credits, either fall or spring)

Spring Semester

- Beyond Boundaries Seminar (2 credits, Beyond Boundaries Program students only)
- One Beyond Boundaries Course (3 credits, either fall or spring)

Year 2: Beyond Boundaries Programming and Self-Directed Interdisciplinary Learning

In Year 2 of the program, students will shift to self-directed learning. Components of this year include the following:

- Participation in Beyond Boundaries peer mentoring
- Beyond Boundaries workshops and events
- Engagement in on-/off-campus activities, such as these:
 - Speakers or exhibits
 - Networking events or workshops
 - Community service/volunteering events
 - Seminars or conferences
 - Internships/fellowships
 - Interdisciplinary courses/projects/programs

These various opportunities are designed to allow students the flexibility to achieve their academic and cocurricular goals beyond the Beyond Boundaries Program, while keeping them connected to the program community.

Students who complete Years 1 and 2 of the Beyond Boundaries Program receive a milestone notation on their transcript. Students may opt to continue this program into their third and fourth years.

For more information, please review the Beyond Boundaries Program's detailed description of self-directed learning [PDF].

Note: Students need to complete all of the requirements for Phase 1 of the Beyond Boundaries Program in order to continue on to Phase 2.

Phase 2: Focus (Years 3 and 4)

Years 3 and 4: Beyond Boundaries Programming, Self-Directed Learning, and Beyond Boundaries Fellows Capstone

Students who complete Phase 1 of Beyond Boundaries can choose to enroll in Phase 2.

There are three paths Beyond Boundaries Program students can follow to complete the requirements for Phase 2:

1. Students participate in Beyond Boundaries-specific programming and fulfill the self-directed learning (detailed above).
2. Students participate in Beyond Boundaries-specific programming and complete an individually determined capstone/thesis project.
3. Students participate in the Beyond Boundaries Fellows Capstone and satisfy all of the set requirements. This requires application and selection.

Students who meet the program requirements of this second phase of the program will receive an additional program completion notation on their official transcript.

Beyond Boundaries Fellows Capstone (optional; application and selection required)

Beyond Boundaries Program students who apply and are selected to be team leads for the Beyond Boundaries Fellows Capstone will receive seed funding for their team-based interdisciplinary capstone projects. This capstone will demonstrate the student's ability to frame a societal issue, gather an interdisciplinary team, and facilitate a collaborative process that culminates in a prototype. The capstone comes at a critical junction in a student's education and is a space to imagine their leadership and impact beyond college.

The capstone will be an active and engaged learning experience in which students will do the following:

- Frame their position on interdisciplinarity
- Develop a proposal for an interdisciplinary team-based project
- Assemble a team
- Implement a project
- Share their findings

Interdisciplinary collaboration is complex. To support the capstone experience, Beyond Boundaries faculty will provide project coaching and course-based learning. Students will engage in seminar-style discussions and skill-building workshops to support their progress. In addition, the Beyond Boundaries team will implement a capstone workbook that includes prompts and deliverables for each phase of the project as well as insights from interdisciplinary teams at WashU.

As part of this capstone experience, Beyond Boundaries Program students will take a three-semester course sequence (45 weeks, three 1-credit courses) beginning in the junior year and accommodating any study abroad or semester-long experiences during this time.

During these three semesters, students are required to assemble teams of three to five disciplinary thinkers. Team leads will spend the first five to seven weeks of the program articulating their interdisciplinary question and identifying team members. They will then assemble their team and move through the remainder of the curriculum together.

Non-Beyond Boundaries Program students who join the teams will be required to take Introduction to Interdisciplinary Practice, an intensive course to ensure that all team members have basic knowledge of this type of collaboration. More information about these Capstone and introductory courses can be found on the Courses tab (p.) of this page.