

Starting and Succeeding at Interdisciplinary Projects

Blend areas of interest with a focused approach.

Kathryn Palmer
Master of Arts, Writing Support Tutor
Student Success Center



Get Creative for a Strong Foundation

Interdisciplinary research needs a strong foundation to show where both sides align.

Even if there are no sources that directly correlate with your study, do not worry! Instead, branch out your searches and discover possible crossovers.



Learn Your Audience

Even though you are combining different areas of study, writing for a specific targeted audience prevents vague ideas that try to cover everything.

Tips:

- Pick a primary area of study and use the others as supplementation, giving your audience clear direction.
- Know your audience early for focused outlining and research.



Embrace Difficulty

Acknowledging difficulty lets you prepare for areas that may bring challenges, such as intersecting theories and foundational models.

Consider:

- Interdisciplinary scholars embrace difficulty to ask new questions and seek new perspectives.
- Challenging projects often bring a sense of accomplishment.



The Power of Conversation

Conversation is a good way to speculate and perceive questions that you did not think of. Even if no one else knows your exact area of study, talking creates space for contemplation and questions.

Remember:

- Let others ask questions and speculate on your words, it reveals your arguments strengths and gaps for further inquiry and research.



Thank you!

Writing Support Services

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>

wonline@ucalgary .ca



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Student Success Centre

