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### **Junior/Senior Interdisciplinary Seminar Initiative**

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One of the suggestions for improving the curriculum that has evolved from the roundtable discussions is to introduce interdisciplinary seminars that would be offered at the junior/senior level to give students a chance to investigate complicated issues. This initiative would help promote a culture of research, inquiry, and discovery as we work to study society's challenges.

The department of exercise and sport studies is an interdisciplinary department, and, as such, is strategically placed to address important issues in an interesting and interdisciplinary fashion. Possible issues might include:

- obesity and its health consequences in children and/or adults
- health care and the prevention and treatment of common chronic diseases
- issues associated with aging populations
- children's health, and the role of physical activity and sport
- current international issues in women's sport

Some could be taught by a single ESS faculty member (Barbara Brehm-Curtis currently teaches an interdisciplinary seminar, Women's Health: Current Issues). We would also enjoy collaborating with other departments. For example, Jim Johnson would be interested in developing a seminar on aging Americans with faculty in engineering and biology.

Multi-disciplinary seminars could be promoted at the junior/senior level. Seminars should receive the sponsorship given to our current First Year Seminars. Additional funding should be secured so that special activities can be pursued. Team taught courses will occasionally require faculty release from required courses. These might include travel, outside speakers, community workshops, etc. Additionally, they should be advertised in the catalog as separate from departments, although most will receive departmental credit. We suggest that all students be required to take at least one of these seminars.