

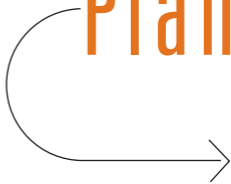
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



Texas

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Plan



Who Are TIP Students?

The Texas Interdisciplinary Plan (TIP) brings together a collection of academically motivated students representing a diverse array of academic interests and career goals within the College of Liberal Arts and College of Natural Sciences. In 2003-04, over forty different majors in the two colleges were represented.

For the past five years, TIP students have

- achieved higher GPAs
- graduated at higher rates
- received prestigious academic awards, including Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) participation and Temple Scholarships;
- actively participated in campus research, spirit and service organizations, and various honor societies; and,
- entered professional schools in medicine, law and scholarly research

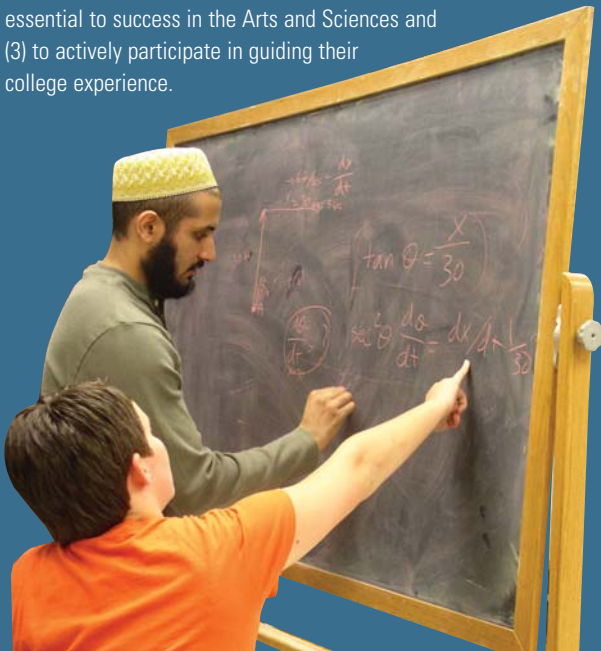
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What is TIP?

The Texas Interdisciplinary Plan (TIP) is a highly selective academic program in the College of Liberal Arts and College of Natural Sciences for students who are motivated and serious about their academic and career success. TIP students enjoy the advantages of a small-college atmosphere at a major research institution and experience a rigorous interdisciplinary course of study along with a unique blend of support services and opportunities. The TIP program is provided at no additional cost to its students.

TIP Goals

TIP students set three primary goals for themselves: (1) to excel academically; (2) to develop critical thinking and writing skills essential to success in the Arts and Sciences and (3) to actively participate in guiding their college experience.



Academics

Balance of Small and Large Classes

TIP assists students with registration for the courses they need during their freshmen and sophomore years. In TIP's small college atmosphere, students enroll in a balance of small-and large-college classes. This balance of different class sizes helps students adjust to the learning environment at UT.

Linked Classes

Each TIP freshman enrolls in three or more courses with other TIP students who share similar academic interests or career goals. The relationships formed in these linked courses often continue outside of class, where TIP students develop an academic and social-support structure.

Critical Thinking Seminar

During their first semester at UT, all TIP students enroll in the Critical Thinking Seminar. The primary goal of this seminar is for students to recognize the traits of a disciplined mind and incorporate them into their academic study. Students become more intellectually perseverant and learn to be more proficient in reasoning. The course forms a platform from which TIP students can confidently pursue any academic discipline at UT.

Connection to Faculty

In the smaller classes and seminars offered by TIP, students have enhanced opportunities for faculty-student interactions. TIP actively recruits faculty who have a strong interest in undergraduate education as well as research expertise. By the end of their freshman year, most TIP students have developed close relationships with several faculty members.

The TIP Interdisciplinary Degree Option

At the end of the freshman year, TIP students may choose to pursue the TIP Interdisciplinary Degree Option. This optional degree plan is designed to provide an intellectually stimulating experience for students who would like to develop expertise in a thematic area of interest.

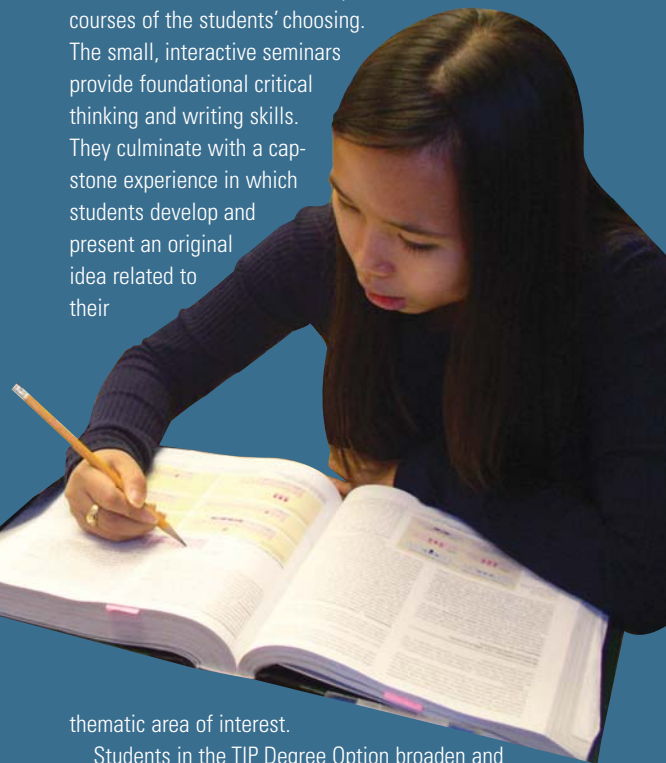
The TIP Degree Option consists of three interactive seminars and three thematically linked courses of the students' choosing.

The small, interactive seminars provide foundational critical thinking and writing skills.

They culminate with a capstone experience in which students develop and present an original idea related to their

thematic area of interest.

Students in the TIP Degree Option broaden and deepen their academic experience at the university by participating in research, internships or relevant service-learning experiences.



TIP Benefits

Mentors

TIP students select a peer mentor for their freshman year. These talented upperclassmen assist TIP students with the transition from high school to college. Typically, mentor groups gather once or twice a week for social or academic activities. TIP mentors provide academic and social support, and serve as excellent role models for new college students.

Academic Advisors

TIP provides increased academic advising to assist TIP students with the personal guidance and support they need to make sound academic decisions. Academic advisors are specialists in the courses and policies of the College of Liberal Arts and College of Natural Sciences and are available to assist students at any time.

Learning Lab

The TIP Learning Lab provides an informal environment for TIP students to gather for evening study. Free tutoring is offered by TIP academic peer mentors who have successfully completed these courses themselves.

Enrichment Activities

TIP students are exposed to a rich assortment of non-academic activities at UT. Activities include Performing Arts Center events, movie nights, TIP intramural sports and many other organized social activities.



How Are Students Selected to Join TIP?

TIP recruits students who have demonstrated a strong motivation and commitment to learning and achievement while in high school. For the 2003-04 academic year, nearly 1,700 students from across the state of Texas received applications to TIP. Only 200 of these students were admitted to TIP.

The TIP faculty selection committee considers many factors in its decision process. These factors include the student's academic goals, areas of academic interest, performance in courses taken in high school, involvement in extracurricular activities, and, most importantly, a demonstrated commitment to learning. Most students selected to join TIP are in the top 10% in their high school classes.

Application Process

- Students must be admitted to The University of Texas at Austin.
- Qualified students receive an invitation and application packet in March.
- Student applications must be returned no later than the deadline in late April.
- The faculty committee notifies those selected to join TIP in mid-May.
- Students who accept the offer to join TIP must respond by the end of May.

Contact Information

For more information about TIP, please see our web site at <http://www.utexas.edu/tip>, or contact us at:



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