

## **Guidelines for developing new areas of study under the Expanding Knowledge Initiative at Grinnell College**

The Grinnell College faculty has long been engaged in a range of interdisciplinary teaching: within majors, in concentrations, in non-departmental, team-taught and shared-theme courses, and in symposia and events organized by centers and programs. The variety of these contributions reminds us that the aim of expanding interdisciplinary teaching and learning is best met by using several different models.

The Interim Advisory Board has identified the following efforts as of particular interest in the expansion of interdisciplinary teaching and learning at Grinnell College:

- **Cross-divisional and intra-divisional efforts** that draw on the expertise of faculty members from more than one department. Ideally, some efforts will bring together individuals from all three divisions.
- **Problem-solving efforts** that draw on two or more disciplines to address a particular problem or issue from multiple perspectives.
- **Efforts that draw upon Grinnell College's distinctive location, educational features, and resources.**
- **Efforts that contribute to understanding local and global perspectives and issues and their interconnections.**
- **Efforts that support our liberal arts mission and commitment to serve the social good.**
- **Team teaching and other forms of collaborative teaching.**

In all cases, the College strives for a high level of academic rigor and methodological sophistication, and seeks ways in which new interdisciplinary teaching can be supportive of the curricular goals of departments and concentrations. In turn, the Expanding Knowledge Initiative should lead departments and concentrations to revisit their goals and curricula and explore ways in which they might be able to bring interdisciplinary courses and/or research into the major. The College works to increase the diversity of the faculty and reduce its reliance on temporary or "term" faculty appointments.