Many community college students can be categorized as being first generation college students, living in rural areas, having families and/or jobs, and who cannot move away from the area. These individuals normally stop their education after earning an Associate’s Degree. This partnership between a university and a community college enables these individuals to continue their education online, earning a Bachelor of Science degree, while maintaining their jobs and without uprooting their families. This degree, a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, allows the student to build the degree around his/her interests or job needs.

This online degree has been offered to non-traditional students for many years. Based on conversations with community college personnel during the last year, the need became apparent for this program to be offered to community college students. Thirteen community colleges have already signed into a partnership to promote this program to their students. The students must select two or three (depending on the number of hours) concentration areas. Thus the students, many of who already have jobs, can create a unique degree that will assist them in their careers. All of the course work is completed online, thus the students can continue to live in the rural areas and not have to move to the university.