

## **Graduate/Undergraduate Experience: Interdisciplinary New Product Design for Industry and Society**

For several years, faculty from three colleges, Management, Design and Textiles, have combined Product Design classes into an interdisciplinary experience. Interdisciplinary teams comprised of students from the three colleges solve real industrial product design challenges. Students learn critical entrepreneurial skills for developing new products. Each academic program has its own course number. The three courses are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Courses Involved in Interdisciplinary Project Activity

Course Number	Title	Instructors
BUS 565	Integrated Product Design Lab	M. Montoya-Wiess. J. McCreery
ID 495	Independent Study – Industrial Design	H. Khachatorian, P. Hooper
TE 401	Textile Engineering Design I	T. Clapp

Students from each class meet at a common time, Mondays 6-9 PM. Interdisciplinary teams are formed the first week. Each team is assigned a Product Design project. Some of the projects are provided by industries, such as WakeMed, Progress Energy and NCRC. Teams have the option of developing their own product.

COM graduate students, specializing in Innovative Management, provide leadership in project management, marketing, and business planning. Graduate students in the Industrial Design program provide expertise in industrial and functional design. Undergraduate students in the Textile Engineering program provide engineering expertise. All students participate in every stage for the NPD process.

The interdisciplinary teams systematically follow the product design process to develop their products. The interdisciplinary faculty team provides weekly lectures and valuable feedback to each student team.

I am personally very excited to be a part of this activity. Our COE accreditation (ABET) criteria specifically expect interdisciplinary engineering design. I know of no better way to meet this expectation, than having truly interdisciplinary teams apply the design process to real industrial and societal challenges.