

# Interdisciplinary Collaboration

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In recent scientific research, natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities have been studied as divided entities, which has led to great depth of knowledge within particular fields, but little in terms of critical connections between disciplines. The differentiation is beginning to show a lack of perspective and insight in how pieces fit together in a larger context. Despite the general outcry regarding the lack of social science integration into other research endeavors, there is very little research about researchers' beliefs about interdisciplinary research. This study aims for a better understanding of on-the-ground researcher views on interdisciplinary work through qualitative interviews of faculty researchers at The Ohio State University. Perceptions of the desires of higher-level administration have been shown to be very consistent in the research in progress. However, the experiences at the department level vary widely. Interdisciplinary research is imperative to studying large scale, complex problems, but the lower levels of departmental mechanics seem to be the critical juncture for the success or failure of such endeavors.