American Studies Interdisciplinary Minor
Strategic Plan

Year One: Since there has been no real strategic plan for the minor, the first year will be devoted to assessing our goals and objectives. We will also:

- Create an Advisory board for the minor made up of faculty teaching courses in the discipline.
- Recruit new faculty to join the program
- Assess all the courses now approved for the minor.
- Propose an interdisciplinary course, Introduction to American Studies.
- Plan an advertising campaign to make students aware of the minor and to show them the advantages of this interdisciplinary minor in several careers, namely law, teaching, news reporting, creative and technical writing.
- Work with student interns in the different disciplines in the minor to create a student advisory board.

Year Two:

- Assess the success of our recruitment drive and other goals for year one.
- Create a list of American Studies scholars and graduate programs in American Studies for American Studies minors.
- Set up an advising program to help with graduate program admissions, career choices, etc.
- Create a journal of the best American Studies papers for each year. These papers would have to be interdisciplinary and would have to reflect knowledge of American Studies methodology.

Year Three:

- Assess the success of goals for year two.
- Recruit new faculty to join the program
- Develop a speaker series for students and faculty in the program to encourage dialogue within the program and between the program and other American Studies Programs.
- Continue to advertise and recruit students and new faculty to the program.
- Encourage students to attend the National American Studies Association conference and find funding for them to attend. Students wishing to attend will have to write a paper to compete for funding.
- Encourage students to write papers for the Loyola Peace Conference to help them think critically and act justly about issues regarding America and the Middle East.

Year Four:

- Assess the success of programs started in years two and three.
- Continue to develop the programs that are successful and work to improve those that are weak.
• Contribute a panel to the Walker Percy conference that relates American Studies methodology to the writer.
• Work with the Center for the Study of New Orleans to host an event relevant to the minor.

Year Five:
• Review all the activities, courses, and student numbers for the last four years.
• Work to create a new strategic plan that incorporates the above assessment.
• Continue to advertise for students, create new courses appropriate to the minor, and invite new young faculty to join the program.
• Create a faculty panel for the National American Studies Association conference on our successes and failures as a minor.