Environmental Sciences PhD: Interdisciplinary Learning for an Interdisciplinary Degree

and on your particular research problem.

Academic Exchange Quarterly, Fall 2008, pp. 171-178. (You can find a copy online pretty easily.) (Quoted material in the rest of this comes from this article unless otherwise stated.)

article identifies four cognitive (reasoning) abilities that come from interdisciplinary learning:

First, the ability to approach a problem from multiple different perspectives. For instance, you might

perspective, looking at how different populations might be affected by dimate change. Or, you might approach it from a chemical perspective, looking at technologies for carbon sequestration or alternative energy so

alternative viewpoints including disciplinary-based viewpoints on a given issue.

understanding of higher-

facts and equations, into a deeper understanding of how different components of that discipline relate iring declarative knowledge (factual information) and procedural knowledge (process-based information) that is used for problem-solving or step-by-step task

Third, the ability to integrate expert views from two or more disciplines. These insights can overlap and reinforce. For instance, understanding how underlying rock formations and water chemistry influence the health of plants and animals that live in a stream. In other cases, the TQ(4e0 1(4e o)(3v)fe)]Tdheent olines. atio

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