

Interdisciplinary Studies, MA

ASINTERMA

Opportunities and challenges in the world are rarely one-dimensional, and solutions often require skills from multiple disciplines. You can custom-build your master's degree program into an outside-the-box experience and perspective.

Program description

Degree awarded: MA Interdisciplinary Studies

The MA degree in interdisciplinary studies is an innovative program in which students learn how to use two or more disciplines in an integrative method that leads to new discoveries. Founded on the conviction that solving today's problems often requires an interdisciplinary approach, this flexible program provides study of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives, interdisciplinary research methods and modes of inquiry and practice.

The program consists of three required MAS courses, six courses of the student's choice and a capstone the final semester, and gives students access to faculty members who are active practitioners of interdisciplinary inquiry. Working with the faculty, students may define their own area of emphasis or adopt an existing area within the humanities, arts and social sciences.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences](#)
- **Location:** [West Valley](#)

Accelerated program options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an **accelerated bachelor's plus master's degree** with:

[Applied Science, BAS](#)

Communication, BA

Communication, BS

English, BA

Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, BS

History, BA

Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance, BA

Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, BA

Philosophy, Religion and Society, BA

Political Science, BA

Political Science, BS

Psychology, BA

Psychology, BS

Social and Behavioral Sciences, BA

Social and Behavioral Sciences, BS

Sociology, BA

Sociology, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. Students typically receive approval to pursue the accelerated master's during the junior year of their bachelor's degree program. Interested students can learn about eligibility requirements and [how to apply](#).

Degree requirements

30 credit hours including the required capstone course (MAS 585)

Required Core (9 credit hours)

MAS 501 Methods for Interdisciplinary Inquiry (3)

MAS 502 Perspectives in Interdisciplinary Studies (3)

MAS 505 Theories of Change, Culture and Mind (3)

Electives (18 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)

MAS 585 Capstone Course (3)

Additional Curriculum Information

The core courses are designed as a sequence meant to guide students through the program, from learning about interdisciplinarity to practicing interdisciplinary research. Therefore, students are required to take each of the core courses the first time that they are available while the student is enrolled in the program.

For electives, students work with a faculty mentor to select 18 credit hours of graduate-level coursework that helps prepare them for their capstone course or reflects particular areas of specialty or interest.

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in any field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. two letters of recommendation
5. an academic writing sample (preferred) or professional writing sample
6. resume or curriculum vitae (optional)
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide [proof of English proficiency](#) regardless of their current residency.

The statement of purpose should describe the applicant's educational background, scholarly interests, and academic and professional goals.

It is preferred that the letters of recommendation are from faculty members who know the applicant's work well, but if faculty are not available, then the recommendations are to be from individuals in supervisory or professional roles.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Career opportunities

The program's emphasis on a variety of research methods and modes of inquiry increases students' value to many organizations. As graduates, they reach their professional goals in a multitude of industries and organization, including advertising and marketing, nonprofit leadership and media production, museum curatorship, community college teaching and modern entrepreneurship.

Career examples include:

- area, ethnic and cultural studies teachers and professors
- archivists
- education administrators
- high school teachers
- human resources managers
- interdisciplinary research specialist
- market research analysts and marketing specialists
- nonprofit manager
- professors
- research consultant

The skills and knowledge graduates acquire can be directed toward doctoral study or professional goals in any enterprise that engages in research, entrepreneurship or education.

Contact information

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[Admission deadlines](#)