Interdisciplinary Studies, MA

Opportunities and challenges in the world are rarely one-dimensional and solutions often require skills from multiple disciplines. This program allows you to custom-build your master's degree from two or more fields of study, giving you the experience and perspective of thinking outside the box.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Interdisciplinary Studies
The MA in interdisciplinary studies offered by the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences is an innovative program that allows students to combine the study of two or more disciplines for their program of study.

Founded on the conviction that solving problems in the 21st century often requires an interdisciplinary approach, this flexible program provides exposure to a variety of research methods, interdisciplinary perspectives, modes of inquiry, and practice.

The program consists of three required MAS courses, six courses of your 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.

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

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences](#)
- **Location:** West
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 and master's degree with:

- American Studies, BA
- Applied Science, BAS
- Communication, BA
- Communication, BS
- English, BA
- Ethnicity, Race and First Nations Studies, 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
- Women and Gender Studies, BA

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments 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 and are 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 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. GRE scores (if applicable)
8. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

The statement of purpose should describe the educational background, scholarly interests, and academic and professional goals of the applicant.
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 from individuals in supervisory or professional roles.

If the applicant does not meet the minimum GPA requirements, the application may be considered if accompanied by an official GRE score.

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 leading-edge entrepreneurship.

Career examples include:

- area, ethnic and cultural studies teachers and professors
- archivists
- art therapists
- education administrators
- film and video editors
- high school teachers
- human resources managers
- market research analysts and marketing specialists
- multimedia artists and animators
- professors

Contact Information

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Admission Deadlines