Interdisciplinary Studies, MA

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Interdisciplinary Studies

The MA degree 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.

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, historical perspectives and modes of inquiry.

The program offers 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 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 or education, ranging from advertising and marketing, nonprofit leadership, and media production to museum curatorship, community college teaching, and leading-edge entrepreneurship.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** West campus

Accelerated Degrees

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
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
Women and Gender Studies, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be 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)

Focus Area (15-18 credit hours)

Electives (0-3 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 at the first time that they are available while the student is enrolled in the program.

For the focus area coursework, students work with a faculty mentor to select 15 to 18 credit hours of graduate-level coursework that reflect a particular area of specialty or interest.

Students can select three credit hours of a graduate-level elective in order to reach the required 30 credit hours for the degree program.

Students should see the academic unit for a complete list of approved focus area coursework and electives.

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 of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (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 (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.
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 (if 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.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**

**Spring**

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**Contact Information**

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Admission Deadlines