

M.A./M.S. PROGRAM in INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Information

This program, effective Fall 2003, is designed to provide highly motivated students the opportunity to develop, with an advising committee, an individualized, interdisciplinary program for graduate study, in which fully approved courses in the humanities, sciences, social sciences, and the professional schools are combined to create a cohesive program not otherwise available on campus. Such a program will involve a minimum of two and a maximum of three academic disciplines.

The program is also designed to respond to faculty-driven initiatives in emerging fields of study, providing an avenue for faculty from different disciplines to collaborate in graduate education in areas of intellectual interest where specific graduate programs do not yet exist.

Admission

Applicants must meet all university requirements for Regular graduate admission, including an accredited baccalaureate degree. If the applicant has 11 or fewer letter-graded graduate credits, the cumulative undergraduate GPA must be 2.75 or higher. If the applicant has 12 or more letter-graded graduate credits, the graduate GPA supersedes the undergraduate GPA and must be 3.0 or higher. International students must have a score of 550 or higher (or 213 or higher CBT) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Admission is selective, based on completed graduate coursework (if applicable), appropriate undergraduate course work, grades, particular departmental requirements, letters of recommendation, and a statement of purpose regarding the intended fields of study. Because this program is designed to serve a small number of students with specific well-articulated goals that cannot be achieved within our existing degree structure, we require a defined Plan of Study and a proposal for the culminating thesis or project, including its relationship to the courses in the Plan of Study, as a part of the application for admission. In addition, each applicant must obtain the consent of an eligible tenured or tenure-track faculty adviser in each of the two or three intended departments, indicating willingness to serve on the student's advisory and final examination committee and acceptance of the general plan of study and intended outcome. If admission is approved, one of these faculty members will be designated as chair. One faculty adviser (in a two-department program) or two faculty advisers (in a three-department program) should have experience as chair of a PSU master's or doctoral committee in which the degree was granted within the past three years. Each faculty member may chair only two MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies committees at any one time.

Admission decisions will be made by a committee composed of the Coordinator of Graduate Studies, the Senior Academic Adviser in Liberal Arts and Sciences, and a representative from each of the departments or programs (not the proposed adviser), designated by the department chair. This committee may choose to include additional departmental or Graduate Council members in assessment of individual application files, if appropriate.

Application deadlines

For admission consideration, complete applications must be received in the Office of Graduate Studies by the following dates: April 1 for Fall term admission; September 1 for Winter term admission; November 1 for Spring term admission; February 1 for Summer term admission. Applications received after those dates will be reviewed for the term following.

We suggest you keep a complete copy of your application.

Please make that copy *before* you submit your application to the Office of Graduate Studies.

M.A./M.S. PROGRAM in INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Degree Requirements

The degree is intended to allow students, in collaboration with graduate advisers, to structure a coherent program from the fully approved graduate courses of at least two, and no more than three, separate academic disciplines. Changes to the advising committee or the plan of study after admission must be approved in advance by the Office of Graduate Studies.

The program requires 54 approved graduate credits and a culminating activity (thesis or project). Fully approved courses have discrete numbers (511-599, 611-698); a limited number of courses numbered 501-509 and 601-609 may be applied to the degree as outlined below. If two departments or programs participate, 48 credits of coursework are required in the two programs with a minimum of 20 in each, and an additional 6 credits of Thesis (IST 503) or Project (IST 506). If three departments or programs participate, 48 credits of coursework are required in the three programs with a minimum of 15 in each, and an additional 6 credits of Thesis (IST 503) or Project (IST 506).

The following additional requirements apply to both options:

- All university requirements apply.
- All courses in each department must be approved by the faculty adviser in that department.
- All credits must be 500- or 600-level.
- Students earning the M.A. degree must pass the current Foreign Language Requirement for M.A./M.A.T. students before any final examination can be given and before a Graduate Office Representative for the thesis/project committee can be approved.
- Of the 54 credits applied to the degree, students must take a minimum of 36 credits at Portland State after admission to the graduate degree program.
- A maximum of 12 credits total of 501 (Research), 502 (Independent Study), and 505 (Reading and Conference) combined may be applied toward the 54 required credits. No 508 (Workshop) credits can be applied to the degree. A maximum of 6 credits of 509 (Practicum) and/or 504 (Internship) combined may be applied toward the degree. A total of 16 credits of 501, 502, 504, 505, and 509 combined may be applied toward the degree. (Courses numbered at the 600-level still must fit within these limits.)
- All students will be required to pass a final oral examination. For both thesis and project students, this will be a presentation of the thesis or project, in keeping with university requirements for master's final oral examinations, and including a representative from a different department selected by the Office of Graduate Studies to complete the final oral examination committee.

M.A./M.S. Interdisciplinary Studies Application for Admission

Each applicant must submit two separate admission applications:

Submit the [university application](#), with \$50.00 application fee and official transcripts from every institution attended, to the PSU Office of Admissions, PO Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751.

Applicants whose baccalaureate degree is not granted by an English-speaking institution (as determined by the PSU International Admissions Office) must submit TOEFL score of 550 or higher.

Submit the [MA/MS IS application](#), with documentation, to the MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Program, Office of Graduate Studies, 600 Unitus Bldg., PO Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751.

Please print

NAME (Last)	(First)	(Middle)	Social Security No. or PSU ID No.
(Other names used)	TELEPHONE		E-Mail Address – <u>print plainly</u>

ADDRESS (Number and Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)
US Citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Resident? <input type="checkbox"/> OREGON RESIDENT: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Date of Oregon Residency _____			
International Student? <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Type? _____			

BACHELOR's Degree received from:

(Institution)	(City, State)	(Degree Major)	(Date Received)
---------------	---------------	----------------	-----------------

Some departments require GRE or other test scores (GMAT, MAT, GRE subject exams, etc.). If required by the departments you propose for the MA/MS IS, list below:

GRE Scores: Verbal _____ Quantitative _____ Analytical _____ exam date _____
 Other exam _____ Score _____ exam date _____ Other exam _____ Score _____ exam date _____

List All Colleges and Universities Attended (attach a separate sheet if more than five institutions):

Institution	City, State	Major	Degree received?	Month/Year from	Month/Year to

Documentation required for the MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies program application:

- Official, sealed transcript from *every* postsecondary institution you have attended (except PSU)
- Two letters of recommendation, in sealed envelopes, preferably from individuals who know your academic performance and potential. Letters from employers, supervisors, or others are acceptable if faculty recommendations are not available.
- A short (1-page) personal statement describing your background and your general reasons for seeking admission to the MA/MS in Interdisciplinary Studies.
- A 1-2 page statement describing the thesis or project you propose as a culminating experience for the MA/MS, including its relationship to the courses in your Plan of Study.
- The MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Proposed Plan of Study, signed by the two or three faculty members who have agreed to serve as departmental advisers and thesis/project committee members for the course of your program.

By your signature, you signify that all statements on this form and within this application are true and complete; that you have completed and submitted a separate university application packet; that you understand that admission to this program is selective and not guaranteed by application; and that you must matriculate (register and pay for at least one course) in the term of your admission or your admission will be cancelled. Furnishing false or incomplete information on an admissions application is Academic Fraud and subject to disciplinary procedures through the Office of Graduate Studies and the Office of Student Affairs.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

M.A./M.S. Interdisciplinary Proposed Plan of Study

The program requires 54 approved graduate credits, including 48 credits of course work and an additional 6 credits of Thesis (IST 503) or Project (IST 506). Every student will be required to pass a final oral examination in keeping with university requirements and including a Representative of the Office of Graduate Studies. Additional requirements are in the *PSU Bulletin* and the **Degree Requirements** section of this application.

Specify one: M.A. ___ M.S. ___ Note that MA requires foreign language competency (see *PSU Bulletin* or PSU Office of Graduate Studies for options for meeting the foreign language requirement).

Faculty requirements: Advisers must be tenured or tenure-track faculty willing to serve on the student's advisory and final examination committees; one adviser (in a two-department program) or two advisers (in a three-department program) should have experience as chair of a master's or doctoral committee in which the degree was granted within the past three years. Each faculty member may have only two appointments as Chair of MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies committees at any one time.

Changes to advising committee or plan of study must be approved in advance by the Office of Graduate Studies.

1st Department: _____ Print Adviser's name: _____
Courses (minimum 20 credits in a 2-department program; minimum 15 credits in a 3-department program):

Adviser's
Signature: _____ Date: _____

2nd Department: _____ Print Adviser's name: _____
Courses (minimum 20 credits in a 2-department program; minimum 15 credits in a 3-department program):

Adviser's
Signature: _____ Date: _____

3rd Department: _____ Print Adviser's name: _____
Courses (minimum 15 credits in a 3-department program):

Adviser's
Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPLICANT's SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____