

## MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Master's degree requirements vary according to the discipline of study and degree sought. Though the minimum requirements are indicated below, you should also refer to the appropriate academic program chapter in this catalog for the requirements specific to your degree objective.

You must complete all requirements for a master's degree within the time limit specified by your department, either five or seven years from the end of the semester of enrollment in the oldest course on the approved program. You must also maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average in each of the following three categories: all course work taken at any accredited institution subsequent to admission to the master's program; all course work taken at CSU, Chico subsequent to admission to the program; and all courses taken in fulfillment of your approved program.

### 1. Development and completion of an approved program of at least 30 semester units of post-baccalaureate 400/500/600-level courses as follows:

- At least 18 units in the program discipline.
- At least 18 of the units required for the degree in stand-alone 600-level courses (those not cross-listed with 400/500-level courses). In programs requiring more than 30 units, at least 60 percent of the units required for the degree must be in stand-alone 600-level courses.
- Not more than 9 semester units of transfer and/or extension credit (correspondence courses and University of California extension course work are not acceptable). CSU, Chico Open University courses are counted in this limit.
- Not more than a total of 10 units of Independent Study (597/697), Comprehensive Examination (696), and Master's Study (699) combined; not more than 3 units of Comprehensive Examination (696) or 6 units of Master's Study (699).
- Not more than 10 units graded CR/NC; no courses in the major department graded CR/NC, with the exceptions of Independent Study (597/697), Comprehensive Examination (696), Master's Study (699), and courses offered CR/NC only.

Any course to be counted toward a master's degree program may not have been counted toward any previous degree at any institution. Further, it must be acceptable for graduate credit by the discipline offering the course (i.e., a 400/500/600-level course that is not acceptable for its department's master's degree cannot be counted toward a master's degree in another discipline).

The program must be planned in consultation with the graduate coordinator and your graduate advisory committee; a Master's Degree Program Plan should be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies.

### 2. Completion and final approval of one of the following, as specified by the department:

- Master's Study (699 enrollment), whether thesis or project, as specified by your advisory committee:  
Enrollment is required in a minimum of 1 unit and a maximum of 6 units of Master's Study (699). You must submit to the Office of Graduate Studies either your thesis or, if you have a terminal project, the written component or description of your project as well as the components which will be catalogued by, and

shelved in, the library (e.g., slides, tapes, etc.). An oral defense of the thesis or project is required as part of a 699 enrollment.

- Comprehensive Examination (written or oral) in the field of study, with a written report prepared by the examining committee describing your examination and performance: The report will be sent to the Office of Graduate Studies no later than three weeks prior to the date of your expected graduation and will be made available to you by the graduate advisory committee chair.
- Comprehensive Examination and Supplementary Component (research paper, professional paper, recital, etc.) in the field of study: The examining committee will prepare a written report describing your examination and performance and will send it to the Office of Graduate Studies no later than three weeks prior to the date of your expected graduation. The report is to be made available to you by the graduate advisory committee chair.

### 3. Approval of the Graduate Coordinators Committee on behalf of the faculty of the university.

#### Modifications of Requirements for MFA Programs

Modifications of the general master's degree requirements have been approved for the terminal MFA degrees related to transfer credit limits, inclusion of course work from a previous graduate degree, continuous enrollment, and mode of enrollment in Master's Study (699). Please refer to the individual MFA program descriptions in the academic programs section of this catalog for more information.

#### Graduate Literacy Requirement

California State University policy requires that all students graduating with the master's degree demonstrate their writing competence. Each department has developed a method of assuring that its students have adequate writing skills. Refer to the "Graduate Literacy Requirement" section of individual master's degree program descriptions for specific information.

### Master's Degree Programs and Options

The master's degrees and options offered by CSU, Chico encompass a broad spectrum of liberal arts, scientific, and professional fields. The following list summarizes the programs available. Detailed information on the MA/MS in Interdisciplinary Studies follows this section; information on each of the other degrees is provided in *The University Catalog* under the academic program chapter referenced in parentheses.

- MS in Accountancy (Business)
- MA in Anthropology (Anthropology)
  - Option in Museum Studies
- MA in Art (Art)
- MFA in Art (Art)
- MS in Biological Sciences (Biological Sciences)
- MS in Botany (Biological Sciences)
- Master of Business Administration (Business)
- MA in Communication Sciences and Disorders (Communication Sciences and Disorders)
- MA in Communication Studies (Communication)
- MS in Computer Science (Computer Science)
- MFA in Creative Writing (English)
- MA in Education (Education)
  - Option in Curriculum and Instruction
  - Option in Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Learners
  - Option in Reading/Language Arts
  - Option in Special Education

- MS in Electrical Engineering (Engineering)
  - Option in Computer Engineering
  - Option in Electronic Engineering
- MA in English (English)
- MS in Environmental Science (Geosciences)
- MA in Geography (Geography and Planning)
  - Option in Rural and Town Planning
- MS in Geosciences (Geosciences)
  - Option in Hydrology/Hydrogeology
- MA in History (History)
- MS in Instructional Design and Technology (Communication)
- Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (Graduate Education)
- MA in Kinesiology (Kinesiology)
  - Option in Athletic Training Education
- MA in Music (Music)
- MS in Nursing (Nursing)
- MS in Nutritional Science (Nutrition and Food Science)
  - Option in Nutrition Education
- MA in Political Science (Political Science)
- MA in Psychology (Psychology)
  - Option in Applied Psychology
  - Option in Psychological Science
- MS in Psychology (Psychology)
- Master of Public Administration (Political Science)
  - Option in Health Administration
  - Option in Local Government Management
- MA in Recreation Administration (Recreation and Parks Management)
- MA in Social Science (Social Science)
  - Option in Social Science Education
- MSW in Social Work (Social Work)
- MA in Teaching International Languages (International Studies)

### Postbaccalaureate Certificate Programs

CSU, Chico offers the following postbaccalaureate certificate programs that may be completed as independent objectives or in conjunction with a master's degree program. The specific requirements for each program are provided in this catalog under the academic program chapter referenced in parentheses.

- Community College Faculty Preparation/Adult Education (Education)
- Theory and Practice of College Composition (English)

### FELLOWSHIPS AND ASSISTANTSHIPS

The Office of Graduate Studies currently administers the Graduate Equity Fellowship Program for underserved master's degree students. The program is designed to encourage students to enter doctoral programs and provides fellows with a stipend and a research assistantship with a faculty mentor.

The Office of Graduate Studies also administers a California Pre-Doctoral Program and a Forgivable Loan/Doctoral Incentive Program. The California Pre-Doctoral Program provides funds for selected upper-division and graduate students to participate in scholarly activities and visit doctoral-granting institutions to explore opportunities for doctoral study. The Forgivable Loan/Doctoral Incentive Program provides loans for students to complete doctoral study in disciplines of particular interest and relevance to the California State University, with forgiveness of the loans at a rate of 20 percent for each year of full-time teaching in the CSU after they complete the doctorate.

Information and applications for all of the above programs are available from the Office of Graduate Studies.

## Graduate Education

Many master's programs also have Graduate Assistant and/or Teaching Associate positions available for qualified master's students. Check with your graduate coordinator to learn more about these options and their availability for your discipline.

## THE MASTER'S DEGREE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The Interdisciplinary Studies program provides students with an opportunity to design unique courses of study leading to the MA or MS degree. Students normally select the program because their individual interests dictate that core courses be drawn from two or three academic areas rather than from a single discipline. If academic or professional goals are not adequately accommodated by university programs in existing disciplines, the Interdisciplinary Studies program may meet the need by allowing specialization in a particular field which is not offered as a master's program by the university.

### Accreditation

Accreditation of the Interdisciplinary Studies degree depends on the specific accreditation of the departments concerned. Students planning to use an Interdisciplinary Studies MA/MS for purposes of professional accreditation should check carefully to be sure that the program meets the professional requirements.

### Career Outlook

Since Interdisciplinary Studies programs are uniquely structured to suit individual needs, the objectives of specific programs vary considerably. The majority of students who select this program have definite occupational goals in mind at the outset. However, others pursue areas of interest which have little or no direct application to their professional lives.

While it is not possible to predict future employment opportunities for Interdisciplinary Studies graduates, this program provides a vehicle for meeting the needs of students with unusual, creative, and interdisciplinary professional or academic goals.

### Course Requirements for the Master's Degree: 30 units

Continuous enrollment is required. A maximum of 9 units of transfer credit may be applied toward the degree. See "Master's Degree Requirements" earlier in this section for complete details on general degree requirements.

Students wishing to discuss and gain approval for a proposed program should consult the Office of Graduate Studies.

### Interdisciplinary Studies Emphases

Special Interdisciplinary Studies emphases have been developed in the following areas. Consult the Office of Graduate Studies for specific information.

**Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies:**  
Mathematics Education K-8  
Science Teaching

**Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies:**  
Mathematics Education  
Simulation Science/Computer Simulation

### Prerequisites for Admission to Conditionally Classified Status:

1. An acceptable baccalaureate from an accredited institution, or an equivalent approved by the Office of Graduate Studies.
2. Satisfactory grade point average as specified in "Admission to Master's Degree Programs."
3. Formation of the graduate advisory committee.
4. Development of an approved program, including a Justification Statement and description of the culminating activity, in consultation with the graduate coordinator and the graduate advisory committee.
5. Approval of the graduate coordinator or chair of each participating department. Students must meet the requirements for admission to classified status, as specified in this catalog, of at least one of the major departments involved in their Interdisciplinary Studies program.

### Prerequisites for Admission to Classified Status:

- In addition to any requirements listed above:
1. The completion of all prerequisites for courses included in the approved program.
  2. A minimum Miller Analogies Test raw score of 50, or a minimum combined Graduate Record Examination test score of 1500, or an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 for the last 60 units and 3.0 for any postbaccalaureate work.
  3. The completion of the following discipline-specific requirements if pursuing a degree involving course work in the areas of anthropology, art, business/management, computer engineering, computer science, economics, engineering, English, health and community services, history, or psychology.

### Anthropology

Students using 12 or more units of anthropology in their program must:

- a) Complete the Graduate Record Examination prior to admission to classified status, with a combined score of 900 on the verbal and quantitative portions.
- b) Pass a 1- to 3-part candidacy exam administered by the Department of Anthropology. This exam, depending on the student's program plan, will contain at least one of the anthropology candidacy exams and possibly all three, as is judged suitable by the student's advisory committee. Upon successful completion of the required competency exam(s), the student may be advanced to candidacy.

### Art

Students using 6 or more units of art course work in their program, or including "Art" in the title or content of the thesis, must have the prior approval of the Department of Art and Art History.

### Business/Management

Students using 9 units or more of 600-level business course work in their program must satisfy the same entrance requirements established for MBA applicants. These include a score no lower than the 50th percentile on the Graduate Management Admission Test.

### Computers/Computing

Students using the term "computers" or "computing" as part of an Interdisciplinary Studies degree title must:

- a) Complete at least 12 units of 400/500/600-level computer science and/or computer engineering courses, each with a grade of B- or better, as part of their graduate work at CSU, Chico.
- b) Include at least one computer science or computer engineering faculty member on the graduate advisory committee.

c) Have the program approved by the chair (or designee) of the Department of Computer Science.

### Computer Engineering

Students using the term "computer engineering" as part of an Interdisciplinary Studies degree title must:

- a) Include a minimum of 12 units of computer engineering courses in the program.
- b) Have the program approved by the chair (or designee) of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

### Computer Science

Students using the term "computer science" as part of an Interdisciplinary Studies degree title must:

- a) Complete the following undergraduate computer science courses, each with a grade of C or better:

CSCI 311 Algorithms & Data Structures 3.0  
Prerequisites: CSCI 112.

CSCI 320 Computer Architecture 3.0  
Prerequisites: CSCI 221; concurrent enrollment in CSCI 311 recommended.

CSCI 330 Software Engineering 3.0  
Prerequisites: CSCI 311.

CSCI 340 Operating Syst Programming 3.0  
Prerequisites: CSCI 311 and CSCI 320.

- b) Complete at least one-half of the degree program in computer science course work.
- c) Include at least one computer science faculty member on the graduate advisory committee.
- d) Have the program approved by the chair (or designee) of the Department of Computer Science.

### Economics

Students using 9 units or more of economics course work in the program may be required to:

- a) Complete the Graduate Record Examination with a combined score of at least 1000 on the verbal and quantitative portions; or
- b) Achieve a score of at least 600 on the Graduate Record Examination subject test in economics; or
- c) Complete the requirements for entrance into the MBA program at CSU, Chico.

In addition, students wishing to use the word "economics" in the degree title must have the specific approval of the Department of Economics. Students wishing to obtain such approval should petition the economics department chair before their programs are designed.

### Engineering

Students using the term "engineering" as part of the degree title must:

- a) Include a minimum of 12 units of engineering course work in the program.
- b) Have the program approved by the engineering graduate coordinator and the chair of the appropriate engineering department.
- c) Have a member of the engineering faculty serve on the graduate advisory committee.

### English

Students planning to include 6 or more units of English course work in an Interdisciplinary Studies degree program may be required to:

- a) Submit a formal research paper, documented according to the latest MLA standards, to the graduate coordinator in English. This paper must come to the graduate coordinator via the instructor who assigned it, together with a written statement of the instructor's opinion of the paper's authenticity. This requirement must be met prior to advancement to classified status.