THE MASTER’S DEGREE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The Interdisciplinary Studies program provides students with an opportunity to design 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 student 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.

The Interdisciplinary Studies degree is designed to accommodate those students whose specific interests may dictate that they take courses from two or three academic areas rather than from a single discipline. Students wishing to discuss and gain approval for a proposed program should consult the Office of Graduate Programs.

Interdisciplinary Studies Emphases
Special Interdisciplinary Studies emphases have been developed in the following areas. Consult the Office of Graduate Programs 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 Programs.
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 Graduate Record Examination test raw score of 500, 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, or psychology.

Anthropology
Students using 12 or more units of anthropology in their program must:
(a) Include a minimum of 12 units of anthropology in the program.
(b) Pass a 1- to 3-part candidacy exam administered by the Department of Anthropology. This exam, depending on the student’s program or discipline, 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.

Business/Management
Students using 9 units or more of 300-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 Admissions 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 200/300-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 151 ALGS AND DATA STR 3.0
Prerequisites: CSCI 015B.
CSCI 152 OPER SYST PROG RM 3.0
Prerequisites: CSCI 151 and CSCI 171.
CSCI 171 COMPUTER ARCHITECT 3.0
Prerequisites: CSCI 051A; concurrent enrollment in CSCI 151 recommended.
CSCI 172 SYSTEMS ARCHITECT 3.0
Prerequisites: Successful completion of CSCI 151 and CSCI 171; concurrent enrollment in CSCI 152 recommended.
(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 must:
(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.
(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 must:
(a) Submit a formal research paper, documented according to the latest MLA standards, to the graduate coordinator in English. This paper must cover 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.
Graduate Education

b) Complete the verbal portion of the GRE General Test with a minimum score of 500. This requirement must be met prior to advancement to candidacy.

Health and Gerontology

Students using the term “health” or “wellness” as part of an Interdisciplinary Studies degree title must have the program approved by the chair of the Department of Health and Gerontology.

Psychology

Students using 6 or more units of psychology course work, or wishing to use the terms “psychology” or “counseling” in the title of the thesis or degree, must have approval of the Department of Psychology.

Advancement to Candidacy:

In addition to the requirements listed above, the student must have classified graduate standing and must have completed 9 units of the proposed program at the university.

Requirements for the MA/MS in Interdisciplinary Studies:

Completion of all requirements as established by the graduate advisory committee and the Office of Graduate Programs, to include:

1. Completion of an approved program consisting of 30 units of 200/300-level courses:
   a) A comprehensive core of units in the chosen disciplines.
   b) At least 18 of the units required for the degree in stand-alone 300-level courses (those not cross-listed with 200-level courses).
   c) Not more than 9 semester units of transfer and/or extension credit (correspondence courses and University of California extension courses not acceptable).
   d) Not more than 15 units taken before admission to classified status.
   e) Not more than a total of 10 units of Independent Study (398) and Master’s Study (399); not more than 6 units of Master’s Study (399).

2. Completion and final approval of a thesis, project, comprehensive examination, or other culminating activity as specified by the graduate advisory committee.

3. Satisfactory completion of a comprehensive final examination (written or oral) in the field of study.

4. Approval by the graduate advisory committee and the graduate coordinators committee on behalf of the faculty of the university.

All requirements listed above are to be completed within seven years of the end of the semester of enrollment in the oldest course applied toward the degree.

Literacy Requirement:

Writing proficiency is a graduation requirement. Interdisciplinary Studies students will demonstrate their writing proficiency by submitting an acceptable justification statement with the application to the program. Consult the graduate coordinator for further information.

Grading Requirements:

All courses in the primary disciplines (with the exceptions of Independent Study - 398, and Master’s Study - 399) must be taken for a letter grade, except those courses specified by the department as Credit/No Credit grading only. A maximum of 10 units of Credit/No Credit grades may be used on the approved program (including 398, 399, and courses outside the major). Performance expectations of master’s students in 200-level Credit/No Credit courses are the same as in 300-level Credit/No Credit courses. While grading standards are determined by individual instructors, it is the policy of the university that unsatisfactory grades may be given when work fails to reflect achievement of the high standards, including high writing standards, expected of students pursuing graduate study.

Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average in all course work on the approved master’s degree program as well as in all course work taken subsequent to admission to conditionally classified status.

Advising Requirement:

Once the program plan is developed and approved, advising is recommended but not mandatory each semester for Interdisciplinary Studies students. For further information, consult the graduate coordinator.

Interdisciplinary Studies Course Offerings

Please see the section on “Course Description Symbols and Terms” in The University Catalog for an explanation of course description terminology and symbols, the course numbering system, and course credit units. All courses employ letter grading unless otherwise stated. Some prerequisites may be waived with faculty permission.

IDST 389 Internship 1.0-6.0 FS
Prerequisites: faculty permission.

Students may register for an Internship, offered as IDST 389A-F, for 1 to 6 units respectively. Credit/No credit grading only.

IDST 397 Special Topics 1.0-3.0 FS
Prerequisites: faculty permission.

Interdisciplinary graduate courses on current topics offered through a sponsoring department as IDST 397A-C, for 1 to 3 units respectively.

IDST 398 Independent Study 1.0-6.0 FS
Prerequisites: faculty permission.

Students may register for an Independent Study, offered as IDST 398A-F, for 1 to 6 units respectively.

IDST 399 Master’s Study 1.0-6.0 FS
Prerequisites: faculty permission.

Students may register for a Master’s Thesis, offered as IDST 399A-F, for 1 to 6 units respectively or for a Master’s Project, IDST 399G-L, for 1 to 6 units respectively. Credit/No Credit grading only.

Symbols and Terms:

IDST 389 Internship 1.0-6.0 FS
Prerequisites: faculty permission.

Students may register for an Internship, offered as IDST 389A-F, for 1 to 6 units respectively. Credit/No credit grading only.

IDST 397 Special Topics 1.0-3.0 FS
Prerequisites: faculty permission.

Interdisciplinary graduate courses on current topics offered through a sponsoring department as IDST 397A-C, for 1 to 3 units respectively.

IDST 398 Independent Study 1.0-6.0 FS
Prerequisites: faculty permission.

Students may register for an Independent Study, offered as IDST 398A-F, for 1 to 6 units respectively.

IDST 399 Master’s Study 1.0-6.0 FS
Prerequisites: faculty permission.

Students may register for a Master’s Thesis, offered as IDST 399A-F, for 1 to 6 units respectively or for a Master’s Project, IDST 399G-L, for 1 to 6 units respectively. Credit/No Credit grading only.

Writing proficiency is a graduation requirement. Interdisciplinary Studies students will demonstrate their writing proficiency by submitting an acceptable justification statement with the application to the program. Consult the graduate coordinator for further information.

Grading Requirements:

All courses in the primary disciplines (with the exceptions of Independent Study - 398, and Master’s Study - 399) must be taken for a letter grade, except those courses specified by the department as Credit/No Credit grading only. A maximum of 10 units of Credit/No Credit grades may be used on the approved program (including 398, 399, and courses outside the major). Performance expectations of master’s students in 200-level Credit/No Credit courses are the same as in 300-level Credit/No Credit courses. While grading standards are determined by individual instructors, it is the policy of the university that unsatisfactory grades may be given when work fails to reflect achievement of the high standards, including high writing standards, expected of students pursuing graduate study.

Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average in all course work on the approved master’s degree program as well as in all course work taken subsequent to admission to conditionally classified status.

Advising Requirement:

Once the program plan is developed and approved, advising is recommended but not mandatory each semester for Interdisciplinary Studies students. For further information, consult the graduate coordinator.