

Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

The Master of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies is a highly challenging academic program for the self-motivated student with a clear perception of objectives and a background which will allow advanced study in the disciplines combined in the program.

This individualized degree is designed to accommodate unique student interests or to prepare students for fields which require programs not presently offered at the university. It is not a replacement for existing degree programs but an enrichment of the university's offerings.

Students should explore the resources of the campus needed for an Interdisciplinary Studies M.A. in terms of course offerings, library resources, facilities, and faculty expertise. This committee must consist of no less than three tenured/tenure-track, full-time faculty members at CSUSB. The committee members should come from the disciplines that make up your plan of study. You may want to check with the department chairs for suggestions as to faculty with expertise in your areas of interest. The faculty you choose should meet your needs in developing a multidisciplinary program of study. One of the three members must agree to serve as chair of your committee.

Proposal Guidelines

To apply to the M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies you must;

1. Submit a university application via CSU Mentor. Ensure all your transcripts are submitted.
2. Prepare a written proposal (2-8 pages) in which you will
 - A. Identify by title the interdisciplinary program of study you wish to pursue (i.e., Interdisciplinary Studies Master's Degree in (50-space limit) and describe the purpose of this program.
 - B. Explain why this program cannot be pursued within one department with electives from other departments.
 - C. Explain how this program relates to your educational and career goals.
 - D. Explain how your background, both academic and experiential is sufficient to undertake this program.
 - E. List the CSUSB courses appropriate to your educational and career goals. List a minimum of 48 units of course work, 70% of which must consist of 500- or 600- level courses, to be included in the Interdisciplinary Studies M.A. As an interdisciplinary program, these courses should include work from two or more departments. To avoid later difficulties with key courses that are not offered prior to graduation, reasonable substitutions should be listed where possible.

- F. Identify the three Faculty members that will serve in your committee. Secure their signatures on the proposal application.
3. The faculty member who will chair the committee must write a statement of support which includes a brief evaluation of the proposal.

Submit the proposal application and faculty statement of support to the Dean of Graduate Studies for consideration. **If the proposal is found promising, and University facilities can support the proposed program of study, the Dean of Graduate Studies will schedule an appointment with you to discuss the project and provide you with the formal application and guidelines to achieve classified status in the program.**

Application Guidelines

The application should be completed by the student with the guidance of his/her committee members.

Application can be submitted at any time, though every effort should be made to turn it in early enough in the term to receive approval prior to registration for the next term. Applications are not considered during the summer quarter.

Submit the completed application to the Dean of Graduate Studies. The application will be forwarded to the University Curriculum Committee for consideration. The University Curriculum Committee will review all interdisciplinary studies applications and reserves the right to reject the application or suggest revisions. The Committee meets regularly throughout the academic year (Fall, Winter and Spring).

The application should be filled out with great care and accuracy. Hastily done or carelessly prepared application is unlikely to convince the Curriculum Committee of its seriousness. Your interdisciplinary studies application will not only be evaluated for its uniqueness and content, but also for your writing ability. Though your committee is to assist you, the ultimate responsibility for the application is your own. The signature of the Chair of the University Curriculum Committee on the application for the Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies signals acceptance of an applicant to the program.

The Dean of Graduate Studies will notify the student in writing of the decision of the University Curriculum Committee. This may be approval or a request for resubmission.

If approval is recommended by the University Curriculum Committee, the student is formally admitted into the program in either conditionally classified or classified status.

Important Information

No more than 12 units of proposed course work can be taken prior to submission of the application to the University Curriculum Committee.

Modification of an Approved Study Plan requires approval of the Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Committee and the Dean of Graduate Studies on an official Request for Change in Study plan form.

At graduation, the diploma will read: Master of Arts - Interdisciplinary Studies - (focus of Study). The focus of study will come directly from the proposed title on the student's Approved Study Plan.

Revised November, 2014