



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS

GRADUATE SCHOOL

MASTER OF ARTS/MASTER OF SCIENCE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

The MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Program is offered by California State University, Stanislaus to accommodate students whose interests and needs are multidisciplinary. Each Interdisciplinary Studies program is a specially designed course of study, involving two or more disciplines, that relates to a coherent theme. The program is designed for exceptional, individual cases only, and provides an opportunity to pursue learning outside the framework of existing MA/MS programs at CSU Stanislaus or other institutions of higher education.

The MA degree is awarded in all fields, especially in the arts, letters, and humanities. The MS degree is generally awarded in the sciences and normally requires more course units than the MA degree.

Minimum Prerequisites for Program Admission

The first step is to apply for admission to the University. The application form may be obtained from the Graduate School. After gaining admission to the University the student applies for admission to the MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies degree program.

The successful student normally meets all of the following criteria in order to be admitted to the MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Program:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university;
- A minimum of 21 upper-division or graduate semester units in the primary field(s) of the proposed MA in Interdisciplinary Studies, and a minimum of 25 upper-division or graduate semester units in the primary field(s) for the proposed MS in Interdisciplinary Studies;
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted;
- Participation in a program orientation;
- The submission of a 3.5 score on the writing section of the Graduate Record Examination Test;
- The submission of a proposed program document in accordance with published deadlines.

The student is urged to allow a full semester for the review process to occur. This timeline is necessary as the writing of the program proposal requires great thought and substantial consultation with the faculty committee, and revisions may be requested from the University committee as well.

No more than nine (9) units of completed course work prior to admission to the program may be included in the program. Completed course work includes transfer units, units taken at CSU Stanislaus in a prior semester, and current units in progress (incomplete grades are considered as work in progress).

PROCEDURES

- The student attends a program orientation.
- The student selects a major advisor and, in consultation with the advisor, chooses two additional faculty members to constitute the master's committee. The graduate committee must include tenure or tenure track faculty, from at least two different disciplines represented in the program's coursework.
- The student completes the "Program Proposal for MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies."
- The student is required to bring the committee together to approve the proposal prior to its submission to the Graduate School.
- The Graduate School assesses the proposed program's compliance with the technical requirements for Interdisciplinary Studies. If these are not met, the proposal will be returned to the student for revision and resubmission.
- The major advisor and the student are invited to attend the meeting of the University MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Committee at which the student's proposal is reviewed. The major advisor and student may present information and may be asked questions. The admission decision will be communicated in writing to the major advisor, typically within one week following the meeting, and to the student the following week.
- The master's committee, the major advisor's department chairperson, the University MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Committee, and the Director of the M.A./M.S. Interdisciplinary Studies Program must approve the proposal.
- When the student receives written approval by the Director of the M.A./M.S. Interdisciplinary Studies program, the student will be admitted to the program in Classified Standing.
- Any changes to the approved program require the approval of the major advisor, in consultation with the committee members, and the Director of the M.A./M.S. Interdisciplinary Studies Program.
- All other University procedures and requirements for the completion of a graduate degree, including the thesis/project, are applicable. Please consult the University Catalog and the Graduate School.

CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS

The "Request for MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Program" proposal must be typed in accordance with the requested format. It is imperative that this proposal demonstrates the student has acquired a high level of analytical and communication skills in her/his undergraduate work. The GRE score, the undergraduate and post-baccalaureate grade point average, and undergraduate preparation are used as indicators for success in the graduate program. The University MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Committee welcomes quality proposals and employs the following criteria in its deliberations:

- adherence to the technical requirements of the program (number of units, etc.);
- the overall clarity and completeness of the proposal, including the student's written communication skills in English;
- a thorough, clear statement of the academic objectives of the program;
- a clear explanation of how the program contributes to the student's professional objectives;
- a cogent justification for a multidisciplinary program;
- an explanation of the coherency of the program (the relatedness of the subject and title and the selection and relationship of the courses);
- the strength of the student's academic record and ability to complete a program of individualized graduate studies.

**MA/MS INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES PROGRAM
PROPOSAL PREPARATION CHECKLIST**

Program Title: _____

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____

Note: The proposal must demonstrate that the following criteria will be met during the duration of your program.

___ 1. BA/BS Degree: _____
Institution Date Major

___ 2. GPA: Cumulative _____ Last 60 Units _____

___ 3. GRE Date: _____ Writing: _____ / _____
Score %

___ 4. Minimum of 18 upper-division and/or post-baccalaureate semester units completed in the fields of the proposed program.

___ 5. Advisors: Three tenure or tenure track faculty from at least two different disciplines.

___ 6. A minimum of 30 semester units for the MA or 36 units for the MS.

___ 7. Program contains 4000- or 5000-level courses only.

___ 8. At least 21 (MA) and 25 (MS) of the total program units are in 5000-level course work.

___ 9. Minimum of 6 units (for MA) or 9 units (for MS) other than the primary field, exclusive of research courses.

 Primary Field Other Field Other Field Other Field

**The primary field contains the largest amount of units, or is discipline, which your Committee Chair represents.*

___ 10. Maximum of 9 units of independent study.

___ 11. Six units of thesis or project.

___ 12. Maximum of 9 units previously completed, including transfer or in-progress courses.

___ 13. CR/NC grading option restricted to fieldwork, internship, and practica (not to exceed 20% of total units).

___ 14. Graduate level research methods course. _____

___ 15. Descriptions provided for individual study, transfer, fieldwork, directed field research, internship or special topics (4950/5950) courses; list instructor of record. (Courses must be in approved Curriculum Master File)

___ 16. Special Requirements: ___ Thesis ___ Project ___ Comprehensive Exam ___ Language

___ 17. Method for meeting writing competency requirement. _____

___ 18. Appropriate Title (not to exceed five words or include names of traditional disciplines)

___ 19. Proposal reviewed and approved by student's committee and major department chairperson.

Prepared by _____
 (Student)

Date: _____

**MA/MS INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
PROGRAM PROPOSAL, part I**

(Program Title)

Student's Name (typed or printed)

Student's Identification Number

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Student Signature

Date

SIGNATURES OF VERIFICATION

Signatures indicate that faculty have read and approved the MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Proposal.

Committee Chair/Discipline (please print)

Signature

Date

Committee Member/Discipline (please print)

Signature

Date

Committee Member/Discipline (please print)

Signature

Date

Committee Chair's Department
Chairperson (please print)

Signature

Date

GRADUATE SCHOOL USE ONLY

DATE PROPOSAL RECEIVED

SIGNATURE, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

DATE PROPOSAL REVIEWED

SIGNATURE, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

COMMITTEE ACTION

DATE

SIGNATURE, I.S. PROGRAM DIRECTOR

DATE PROVISIONAL

DATE CONDITIONAL

DATE CLASSIFIED

GRADUATION CLEARANCE

SIGNATURE, I.S. PROGRAM DIRECTOR

PROGRAM PROPOSAL, part II

(Program Title)

Student's Name (typed or printed)

Student Identification Number

- ❖ Degree Type: Master of Arts Master of Science
- ❖ Culminating Experience (including required Oral Defense): Thesis Project
- ❖ Prerequisite courses and/or requirements to be completed in addition to the 30/36 semester-unit program:

- ❖ List specific courses that will be required to complete the major (30 units for the M.A./36 units for the M.S.). The proposed program should be a coherent series of courses that are consistent with the stated objectives. List the 5000 level courses first.

Course Number	Instructor	Course Title	Units	Letter Grade or CR/NC (CR/NC restricted to fieldwork, internship and practica)	Transfer/Incomplete/In-Progress
		Graduate Research Methods Course			
		Thesis or Project	6		

Total Units: _____ Total 5000-level units: _____ Total Individual Study Units: _____

PROGRAM PROPOSAL, part III

(Program Title)

Student's Name (typed or printed)

Student's Identification Number

ON A SEPARATE PAGE, RESPOND TO ITEMS #1-7 IN A TYPED ESSAY FORMAT.

(Identify each response with the item number and place your name on each page.)

1. Describe the coherent theme, conceptual framework, and specific academic objectives of your interdisciplinary program.
2. Describe the professional objectives of your program.
3. List each course, its catalog description, and a rationale for its inclusion in the proposed program, citing how each course contributes to a coherent, integrated program consistent with the conceptual framework/theme previously described. Group the courses by discipline.
4. Describe all independent study, transfer, fieldwork, internship, or special topics (4950 and 5950) courses included in your program in detail equivalent to University catalog course descriptions. Except for transfer units, you must include the name of the instructor for each course listed.
5. Explain how you will meet the graduate writing competency requirement.
6. Describe your academic and professional preparation for the major, including relevant baccalaureate and graduate coursework in the primary field(s) of study. Relevant work experience may also be included.
7. Describe the academic and/or professional reasons why existing master's degree programs, both at CSU Stanislaus and other institutions of higher education, do not meet your academic and professional objectives.