



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 get a commitment from at least one tenured or tenure-track faculty member to serve on your program committee. The signed "Faculty Commitment Form" must be provided to the Interdisciplinary Studies MA/MS Program before you apply to the Graduate School. Then the student applies to the Graduate School at CSU Stanislaus. After gaining admission into graduate studies at the university, the student applies for admission to the MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies degree program by completing a program proposal.

The successful student normally meets all of the following criteria and submits these required materials 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 18 upper-division and/or post-baccalaureate semester units in the primary field(s) of the proposed program
- A minimum grade point average of 2.5 in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted
- Participation in a program orientation with the Interdisciplinary Studies Director
- A signed commitment form from at least one tenured or tenure-track faculty member
- A program proposal and defense 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 Interdisciplinary Studies 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 FOR APPLICATION TO THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MA/MS PROGRAM

- The student attends an orientation meeting with the Interdisciplinary Studies Director.
- The student selects a program committee chair and, in consultation with the chair, chooses two additional faculty members to constitute the student's committee. The committee must include tenured or tenure-track faculty from at least two different disciplines represented in the program's coursework.
- Student must submit a "Faculty Commitment Form" signed by at least one faculty member before applying to the Graduate School.
- Student applies to the Graduate School (the application should include 1-3 letters of recommendation and a brief Statement of Purpose).
- After gaining admission to the Graduate School, the student completes the "MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Program Proposal" and "Program Proposal Preparation Checklist."
- The student gets all program committee members to approve the program proposal prior to submission to the Interdisciplinary Studies Program.
- The Interdisciplinary Studies Director 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 student and the student's committee chair are invited to attend the meeting of the University MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Committee at which the student's proposal is reviewed. The student and the committee chair may present information and may be asked questions. The admission decision will be communicated in writing to the student's committee chair, typically within one week following the meeting, and to the student the following week.
- The student's committee, the department chairperson of the student's committee chair, the MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Committee, and the Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program must approve the proposal.
- When the student receives written approval by the Director of the 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 student's committee chair, in consultation with the committee members, and the Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. All other University procedures and requirements for the completion of the graduate degree, including the thesis/project, are applicable. Please consult the University Catalog and the Graduate School.

CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS

Applicants must follow the format below when completing the "MA/MS Interdisciplinary Studies Program Proposal" and the "Program Proposal Preparation Checklist." The proposal must demonstrate advanced analytical and communication skills, abilities the student should have developed as an undergraduate and that suggest future success in graduate school. Indicators of success include a high undergraduate and post-baccalaureate grade point average, examples of undergraduate preparation, and the ability to write a coherent and persuasive Letter of Intent. The 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.)
- Clarity and completeness of the written proposal, which must display advanced communication skills in English
- A thorough, clear statement of the academic objectives of the student's proposed program
- A cogent explanation of how the program contributes to the student's professional objectives
- A convincing justification for the proposed multidisciplinary program
- An explanation of the coherence 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 evidence of the ability to complete a program of individualized graduate studies

**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 III: Letter of Intent

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. **Do not include courses listed in item #4.**
4. List each independent study, transfer, fieldwork, internship, or special topics (4950 and 5950) courses included in your program and describe these courses in detail equivalent to University catalog course descriptions. Except for transfer units, you must include the name of the instructor for each course listed. For independent study courses, include a unique title that will appear on transcripts (Note: 30 character maximum).
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.

**California State University, Stanislaus
The Graduate School**

**Graduate Research Methods and Writing Proficiency
Courses**

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Research Methods</u>	<u>Writing Proficiency</u>
ANTH	5850	Seminar in Graduate Research	2	yes	yes
ART	4570	Senior Seminar in Art History (WP)	3	no	yes
BIOL	4010	Research and Technical Writing in Biology (WP)	3	yes	yes
BIOL	5010	Advanced Writing in Environmental Science	4	no	yes
BIOL	5500	Quantitative Ecology and Methodology	4	yes	no
BIOL	5968	Research Methods and Professional Skills	4	yes	yes
CJ	5201	Quantitative Methods in Criminal Justice	3	yes	yes
COMM	4030	Communication Research Analysis	3	no	yes
CS	4960	Seminar in Computer Science	1	no	yes
EDEL	9001	Applied Qualitative Research	3	yes	no
EDEL	9002	Applied Quantitative Research	3	yes	no
EDGS	5510	Introduction to Educational Research	3	yes	yes
EDGS	5600	Introduction to Qualitative Research in Education	3	yes	yes
EDGS	5610	Introduction to Quantitative Research in Education	3	yes	yes
ENGL	5000	Critical Theory and Research	3	yes	yes
ENGL	5001	History and Research Methods in Composition/Rhetoric	3	yes	yes
GEOG	5850	Seminar in Graduate Research	2	yes	yes
HIST	5930	The History of Historical Writing	4	yes	yes
MDIS	5900	Introduction to Graduate Field Research Methods	3	yes	yes
MGT	5200	Seminar in Organizational Behavior	3	yes	yes
MGT	5310	Business Organization, Theory and Behavior	3	no	yes
MKT	5410	Marketing Management	3	no	yes
MSCI	5080	Scientific Methods	4	yes	yes
MSCI	5804	Scientific Writing	3	no	yes
MUS	5000	Music Bibliography and Research	3	yes	yes
NURS	5020	Nursing Research	3	yes	no
OM	5090	Business Research Techniques	3	yes	no
PADM	5000	Administration in Public Affairs	3	no	yes
PADM	5010	Quantitative Analysis	3	yes	no
PADM	5720	Research Design and Program Evaluation	3	yes	no
PHIL	4960	Senior Seminar	3	no	yes
PHSC	4960	Physical Sciences Seminar	1	no	yes
PSCI	5000	International Relations Seminar	4	no	yes
PSYC	5010	Advanced Methods for Psychological Research	3	yes	no
PSYC	5020	Advances Statistical Analysis of Psychological Data	3	yes	yes
SOCL	4030	Research Analysis	4	yes	no
SOCL	5000	Seminar in Criminology	3	no	yes
SW	5020	Social Work Research Methodology	3	yes	no
SW	5030	Foundation I: Generalist Social Work Practice Using a Strengths Perspective	4	no	yes
SW	5031	Foundation II: Generalist Social Work Practice Using a Strengths Perspective	4	no	yes