INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (GRADUATE)

Division of Graduate Studies
Interim Dean: Dr. Mi-Sook Kim
ADM 254
(415) 338–2234

Note: Admission only by permission. Meeting with a graduate advisor required. Please see the Graduate Advisor (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/all-university/interdisciplinary-studies-graduate/grad.sfsu.edu/content/current-students/graduate-studies-advising) for information on graduate program options.

Program Scope
A degree in Interdisciplinary Studies is offered as a Master of Arts and a Master of Science to meet the unique needs and interests of students that cannot be met in a reasonable manner by one of the regularly offered graduate degree programs at SF State. Students pursuing an Interdisciplinary Studies program must develop a 30-36 unit plan of study that draws on courses from multiple disciplines with the intent to integrate the concepts, perspectives, and methodologies of those disciplines into a focused, central theme which may lead to new ways of looking at a subject, issues or problem. Usually, courses must be selected from three departments bridging at least two colleges within the University.

The courses to be applied toward the major must be carefully selected for their interrelatedness and general applicability to the objectives of the unique major being proposed. Only major themes that can be supported with integrity by existing coursework and faculty expertise will be approved. Determination of degree designation as an M.S. or M.A. is the decision of the major advisor and the dean of Graduate Studies. This degree cannot be used to meet credential or licensing requirements.

Eligibility for the Program
All applicants to this program must be eligible for admission to a master's degree at SF State and must meet the requirements for a master's degree as defined in the University Bulletin. The primary responsibility for academic program advising will rest with the members of this committee, especially the major advisor. The major advisor must come from a department/program from the primary focus of the student's proposal. The Dean of Graduate Studies is responsible for the general administration of the program in lieu of the traditional college and department. Students interested in the Interdisciplinary Studies program should meet with a graduate advisor in Administration Building room 254. See the Graduate Studies website (http://grad.sfsu.edu/content/current-students/graduate-studies-advising) for advising information.

Program Requirements
Students in the Interdisciplinary Studies major must complete all requirements for a master's degree (bulletin.sfsu.edu/graduate-education/academic-policies-procedures) offered by the university. In addition, students in the Interdisciplinary Studies program are expected to meet the following standards:

- Maintain close contact with the major advisor and other committee members to assure that the program is carefully planned, and that satisfactory progress is made toward its completion.
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA every semester in all coursework specified for the degree. CR/NC courses are not allowed except for the culminating experience course.
- Make continuous progress toward the degree in every semester until graduation, taking no fewer than nine units toward the degree each year. Courses not related to the degree are not permitted.
- Complete the 30-36 unit degree in no more than five years from the date of enrollment.

Advancement to Candidacy (ATC)
The Advancement to Candidacy form must:
• Include a minimum of 30-semester units of coursework exclusive of special (individual) study, experimental, transfer, and credit-by-examination type of credit.

• Include courses from a minimum of three specified disciplinary areas as directed by the degree advisors;

• Include a minimum of three units of a research methodology and three units of statistics beyond elementary statistics;

• At least 70 percent of the units required for the degree must be in graduate level courses (i.e., numbered 700 and above on this campus);

• Include no more than 12 units of coursework in any one discipline;

• Make provision for a three-unit culminating experience requirement (e.g., 898, thesis; 894, creative work project; 895, field research project; etc.) that utilizes a committee of three faculty advisors sitting on the student's committee; and

• Include the signature of the major and second advisors. The dean of Graduate Studies will review and approve the ATC in lieu of a college coordinator and on behalf of the university.

General Procedures for the Program

Developing an Interdisciplinary Studies degree takes a great deal of initiative, independent thought, and follow-through by the student. To initiate the process:

1. Meet with a Graduate Studies advisor to review program requirements and processes for developing a proposal.

2. Meet with the Dean of Graduate Studies to discuss degree program.

3. Identify and meet with the primary faculty advisor and two additional tenured or tenure-line faculty members at SF State campus who have the expertise and interest in advising and supporting you in the proposed program of study. The primary faculty advisor must be from a department that offers a graduate degree. Lecturer faculty may not serve on Interdisciplinary Studies committees because lecturer faculty may not be available each semester for advising.

4. When the proposal form has been approved by all three advisors, submit the proposal with the faculty signatures to the Dean of the Graduate Studies for final approval. Following approval, you must be admitted to the University via the online Cal State Apply (https://www2.calstate.edu/apply).