Developing Your Academic Program of Study in the Master’s Programs in Interdisciplinary Studies
Consider the Following

- What are my short/long term goals?
- How does the Master’s in Interdisciplinary Studies help me reach these goals?
- Am I ready for graduate studies?
  - What disciplines do I plan on studying?
  - How many classes will I take per term?
  - How much will it cost to complete the degree?
  - How long will it take to complete the degree?
  - What other obligations should I consider that may conflict with my ability to complete the degree? (e.g. heavy travel schedule for work, active military service, new family, etc.)
- When would I like to start graduate studies?
- When are the application deadlines?
Choosing Your Path Forward

- Individuals are drawn to graduate education for a number of reasons, whether it be for career advancement or personal enrichment, choosing the right graduate education is essential to achieving a goal.

- Deciding on the right degree (e.g. M.A./M.S., Ed.S., Ph.D.), degree program (Biomolecular Sciences, English, Psychology, Interdisciplinary Studies, etc.), and institution (Harvard, Stanford, UCF, etc.) are all important decisions and should be evaluated with the utmost care taking into account intended post-collegiate goals.

- Master’s degrees differ from Specialist and Doctoral degrees in focus and duration and provide distinct career opportunities upon successful completion.
The Master’s in Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) is a focused graduate degree program best utilized where a traditional single disciplinary graduate program does not encompass the scope of a student’s academic/research interests.

The IDS M.A./M.S. programs allow students who wish to pursue graduate education in two disciplinary areas to combine course work from each of these areas culminating in interdisciplinary research, presentation, and defense of a master’s thesis.

Students should take care in crafting their individualized program of study to align the intended course work with their educational/experiential goals for earning the graduate degree.

Purpose of IDS Degree Program
Individuals interested in completing the M.A. or M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies should initially consider their overarching goal/purpose for completion of the degree. A rationale/justification statement or statement of purpose should be developed to articulate why/how completion of this degree will support or enable attainment of a specific goal.

Next, consider what disciplinary areas should be studied/researched in order to meet the goal of the degree program.

Finally, consider what specific courses would need to be completed in order to attain an educational background conducive to conducting research in the areas.
Individuals will need to communicate this information during the application process to form the basis of their program of study and to ensure that: 1) their intended program is directly related to their stated educational objectives; and, 2) that the program of study is feasible.

Provide the following information:

- A justification statement (statement of purpose) articulating why/how completion of this degree will support attainment of a specific goal.
- A justification statement for the disciplinary areas that support the overarching goal for the degree program.
- Justification statements for the specific courses needed to be completed in order to attain an educational background conducive to conducting research in the desired areas.
IDS M.A./M.S. Program Composition

- **IDS Master’s program consists of 33 credit hours minimum, including:**
  - 6 hours Core
    - Interdisciplinarity, IDS 6126, 3 credit hours
    - Research Methods course, min. 3 credit hours, selected by student based on areas of study/research, approved by office
  - 21 hours Individualized Program of Study (At least 9 credit hours from 2 different disciplinary areas and 3 additional credit hours)
    - Disciplinary area of study/research, min. 9 credit hours
    - Disciplinary area of study/research, min. 9 credit hours
    - Supportive elective, 3 credit hours
  - 6 hours (minimum) Capstone Experience – Thesis
    - Thesis, IDS 6971, 3 credit hours
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IDS M.A./M.S. Program Composition

Core
- 6 credit hours

IDS 6126 Interdisciplinarity
Research 3 hrs
Student selected Research Methods course approved by IDS Office

Individualized Program of Study
- 21 credit hours

Area of Study 1
Area 1 3 hrs
Area 1 3 hrs
Area 1 3 hrs
(Minimum 9 hrs)

Area of Study 2
Area 2 3 hrs
Area 2 3 hrs
Area 2 3 hrs
(Minimum 9 hrs)

Course 3 hrs
(Minimum 3 hrs)

Capstone
- 6 credit hours

IDS 6971 Thesis

IDS 6971 Thesis
The Core of the IDS Master’s program consists of:

- **Interdisciplinarity, IDS 6126, 3 credit hours**
  - Interdisciplinarity examines the history and challenges of interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship. The course starts by posing the question, “What is a discipline?” Then explores various interdisciplinary approaches and scholarship. The final goal is for each student to present an interdisciplinary research proposal that will guide their work on their Interdisciplinary Studies M.A. or M.S. thesis.

- **Research Methods course, min. 3 credit hours, selected by student based on areas of study/research, approved by IDS Office**
  - A list of pre-approved research methods courses is available on the Interdisciplinary Studies website.
  - The research methods course should help students understand research methodology from at least one disciplinary perspective and prepare the student for conducting research as part of their capstone experience.
Individualized Program of Study

- The Individualized Program of Study consists of:
  - At least 9 credit hours from one disciplinary area
  - At least 9 credit hours from another, distinct disciplinary area
  - 3 additional credit hours of supportive electives

- The diagrams on the following slide illustrate how the elective may be applied within the Individualized Program of Study:
  - Overlap of the supportive elective with both disciplinary areas
  - Overlap of the supportive elective with one disciplinary area
  - Overlap of the supportive elective with the other disciplinary area
  - No overlap of the supportive elective with either disciplinary area
**Individualized Program of Study**

Overlap of the supportive elective with both disciplinary areas

- Area 1: 3 hrs
- Area of Study 1: 3 hrs
- Course: 3 hrs
- Area 2: 3 hrs
- Area of Study 2: 3 hrs

No overlap of the supportive elective with either disciplinary area

- Area 1: 3 hrs
- Area of Study 1: 3 hrs
- Course: 3 hrs
- Area 2: 3 hrs
- Area of Study 2: 3 hrs

Overlap of the supportive elective with one disciplinary area

- Area 1: 3 hrs
- Area of Study 1: 3 hrs
- Course: 3 hrs
- Area of Study 2: 3 hrs
- Area 2: 3 hrs

Overlap of the supportive elective with the other disciplinary area

- Area 1: 3 hrs
- Area of Study 1: 3 hrs
- Course: 3 hrs
- Area of Study 2: 3 hrs
- Area 2: 3 hrs
The Capstone Experience of IDS Master’s program consists of:

- Thesis, IDS 6971, 3 credit hours
  - Students formally begin work on their Thesis by researching and writing under the direction of their Thesis Committee
- Thesis, IDS 6971, 3 credit hours
  - Students complete their Thesis and present and defend before their Thesis Committee
Having reviewed these materials, we would welcome you to contact the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies with any questions you may having regarding the graduate programs.

If you would like to begin the application process for the IDS M.A./M.S. degree programs, please consult the “Getting Started with the Master’s Programs in Interdisciplinary Studies” slideshow for additional information on application to the graduate program and contact the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies.

- The “Getting Started” slideshow is available on the IDS website at www.is.ucf.edu.
If you have any questions regarding the Masters in Interdisciplinary Studies program please contact the office to speak with the graduate advisor.

- **Location**: Classroom Building 1, Suite 302
- **Hours**: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (by appointment only)
- **Phone Number**: (407) 823-0144
- **Website**: [www.is.ucf.edu](http://www.is.ucf.edu)
- **E-mail**: [mis@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:mis@mail.ucf.edu) (be sure to include your name and contact information in the e-mail)