

HUMANITIES, INTERDISCIPLINARY

Degree: Master of Arts
Department: Philosophy and Religious Studies
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College: Arts and Sciences

The Interdisciplinary Humanities Master of Arts program is administered by the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, following the guidance of a program advisory committee. The program is devoted to the exploration of humanities interests. Faculty supporting the program represent diverse scholarly specialties within the humanities, arts, and social sciences. They are drawn primarily from the college but may also include appropriate individuals from the broader University community.

Students in the Interdisciplinary Humanities program develop an individual curriculum following guidelines established by the program advisory committee. Programs of study typically focus upon a unifying theme but draw from several academic areas. Some students pursue intensive or specialized work in complementary areas from at least two disciplines. Studies often bridge from the humanities to other scholarly or creative areas. The program experience culminates with an integrative thesis prepared under the direction of an assigned faculty committee.

In addition to general University requirements, students seeking the M.A. in Interdisciplinary Humanities must meet the requirements listed below.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective students apply for graduate admission through the Office of Admissions. The admission packet includes application forms, a residency statement, transcripts of all prior college and university work, a formal statement defining the proposed program focus, and GRE scores. When the application packet is complete, it is forwarded to the Interdisciplinary Humanities Program Advisory Committee for consideration. This advisory committee, comprised of faculty who are most familiar with and active within the program, meets each term to review packets for new admissions. Students should be sure that all application materials are received by the Office of Admissions deadline for graduate admission.

Admission decisions for the program are based primarily upon the following criteria:

- A. Prior academic performance;
- B. The proposed program; and
- C. Graduate Record Examination scores.

For students who plan to integrate arts, performance or creative writing in their programs, additional portfolio samples may be requested by participating faculties as part of the admission process. In some instances, the advisory committee may require, as a condition of acceptance, completion of prerequisite courses outside the approved graduate program, and it is generally expected that the applicant have at least the equivalent of 15 semester hours of undergraduate work in their area of concentration.

The committee carefully weighs the area of concentration proposed by each applicant against existing faculty resources and looks for realistic but innovative integrations of humanities interests in advanced scholarship which cuts across disciplines. Selection emphasizes a balance among realistic scholarly proposals, upcoming course opportunities, and faculty support at the thesis level. The committee accepts only students who offer plans that current faculty expertise can support.

Students who plan to work with specific faculty members or in specialized areas are encouraged to discuss program possibilities in advance. The advisory committee members and many of the program faculty can provide valuable advice on preparation of the program statement. Prospective students should keep in mind, however, that admission decisions are committee actions.

The following departments routinely participate in this program and hence are the possible areas of concentration the student may choose from: Anthropology, Communication Arts, English, Fine Arts, Government, History, Management, and Philosophy/Religious Studies. All courses comprising a proposed area of concentration must be drawn from offerings in a single department. Related courses from departments outside of the student's area of concentration must present a clear humanities perspective and may only be used toward the 18 sh requirement upon written request and approval of the program's advisory committee.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

General requirements for the Interdisciplinary Humanities Master of Arts are as follows:

- A. Completion of all required course and program prerequisites;
- B. 36 sh in an approved graduate program with each of the regular courses presenting a clear humanities perspective, and with at least 18 sh being in one contributing department (or "area of concentration") and at least 12 sh being in a secondary area. (The following departments routinely participate in this program: Anthropology, Communication Arts, English, Fine Arts, Government, History, Management, and Philosophy/Religious Studies.)
- C. A grade of "B" or higher is required in all courses used toward the degree.
- D. Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA in all courses.
- E. All work toward the Master's degree, including the thesis or Master's essay, must be completed within five years of the first semester of enrollment in the program.
- F. Upon the completion of 12 sh, students are responsible for requesting a supervising faculty committee. Faculty advisors will assist in this process; and
- G. Students will submit a thesis and pass an oral examination covering both the thesis and its general content for 6 sh credit. The thesis should reflect the interdisciplinary aspect of the student's program or may be a specialized project, such as a film script, television program, or artistic performance. In the case of the specialized project, visual documentation must

be provided. Students may be allowed to prepare a research paper instead of a thesis for 3 sh directed study credit. These students will take one additional course for 3 sh and pass a written and oral comprehensive examination developed and administered by their supervising faculty committee.