

# INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

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## DEPARTMENT OFFICE

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## COORDINATOR

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## Programs Offered

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- Bachelor of Arts in the Special Major
- Bachelor of Science in the Special Major
- Special Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies
- Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies
- Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies

Students interested in designing an interdisciplinary program can pursue a bachelor's degree in the special major and a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies. The undergraduate special major and the graduate major in interdisciplinary studies are designed for students whose particular interests, backgrounds, or professional objectives are not served by a traditional degree program. The purpose of these majors is to provide a carefully controlled opportunity for qualified students to design, with faculty approval, a flexible interdisciplinary course of study that leads to a bachelor's or master's degree. Admission is limited to those whose individualized programs can be organized around a special topic or a cross-disciplinary inquiry that is original and involves work in more than one department. Interested students should contact the coordinator of interdisciplinary studies (ITDS), who initiates the application and screening process.

The special and interdisciplinary studies majors are not intended to bypass normal graduation requirements and may not be used to duplicate formally structured programs at Sonoma State University or other service-area institutions. The reason for this restriction is that these programs should be reserved for students whose special interests cross disciplinary lines and who find appropriate faculty expertise here.

### Application requirements for all programs

1. All students must apply for admission to the special major or the major in interdisciplinary studies. Before developing a program proposal, the student must consult with the interdisciplinary studies coordinator, who will initiate the application and screening process and will help identify faculty advisors to serve as an academic advisory committee.
2. There must be at least two faculty members for the special major and three faculty members for the major in interdisciplinary studies who agree to constitute the advisory committee

and act as advisors for each student's program of study. It is the student's responsibility to contact these advisors to plan with them a coherent, original, and feasible course of study. One committee member must agree to be the committee's chair and to be the student's principal advisor on matters related to the major course of study and all other graduation requirements.

3. In consultation with the ITDS coordinator and the academic advisory committee, each student must complete a program proposal and submit it in duplicate to the ITDS coordinator by an application deadline. There are three proposal deadlines each semester.
4. Filing a proposal application with the ITDS coordinator does not ensure acceptance in the special major or interdisciplinary studies program. Each proposal must be evaluated by the ITDS committee. The committee may recommend approval or conditional approval of the application, may request that the application be reworked and resubmitted, or may reject the application. Approved programs must then be approved by the Associate Vice Provost of Academic Programs. If the application is approved at both levels of review, the student may register as a special major or as a major in interdisciplinary studies.

## Bachelor of Arts or Science in the Special Major

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Degree Requirements	Units
General education	51
Major requirements (core and supporting)	45
General electives	24
<b>Total units needed for graduation</b>	<b>120</b>

### Requirements for the Special Major

A 3.00 grade point average is a prerequisite to application. The special major is a unique major that suits individual goals and is personally valuable, but may pose professional obstacles. Career goals and prerequisites for higher degrees should be reviewed before proceeding with this major.

The special major consists of 45 units of course work in two or more disciplines; 24-26 upper-division units constitute the core courses, while the remaining units may include lower-division courses.

To be considered for the special major, the student must have more than one full year (31 units or more) of course work in the major still to be completed after approval by the ITDS committee and the filing of the Change of Major form. Work in progress during the semester of the proposal's approval will count toward the 31 units.

Contact the ITDS coordinator for the detailed guidelines and the application form for the special major. At the time you apply for a special major, you should have completed at least half of your GE requirements and should be in your junior year.

## **Special Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies**

The special minor has the following features and requirements:

1. The minor consists of 21-24 units of coursework from two or more departments;
2. Two-thirds of these units must be in upper-division course work;
3. Two-thirds of the minor must remain to be completed at the time the minor is approved. Work in progress during the semester of the minor's approval counts toward the two-thirds requirement;
4. The student must have a minimum GPA of 3.00 in order to apply;
5. A student will not be considered for a special minor before the student's junior year; and
6. A special minor must have the same coherence and academic integrity as are demanded of a special major and is subject to the same application process.

Contact the ITDS coordinator for the detailed guidelines and the application form for the special minor.

## **Master of Arts or Science in Interdisciplinary Studies**

<b>Degree Requirements</b>	<b>Units</b>
Major requirements	30-32
Total units needed for graduation	30-32

### **Requirements for the M.A. or M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies**

#### ***Prerequisites to Application***

- Admission to the University in conditionally classified graduate status; and
- A grade point average of at least 3.00 for the last 60 units of college work attempted.

#### ***Prerequisite to Acceptance***

- Passage of the Written English Proficiency Test (WEPT). Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Aptitude Test scores are not required, but may be submitted in support of the application; and
- The candidate for this degree must comply with the normal regulations governing graduate study at Sonoma State as described in this catalog.

#### ***Course Requirements***

General course and unit requirements:

- The master's in interdisciplinary studies consists of a minimum of 30 units to a maximum of 32 units in two or more disciplines.
- At least 20 units must be graded (A-F); the remainder (up to one-third of the total number of units of the major) may be taken in a nontraditional grading mode. (In order to receive a

Credit (Cr) grade in a graduate level class, the student must earn the equivalent of B- or better.)

- The student must have at least 15 units of the major still to be completed after approval of the proposal by the Associate Vice Provost of Academic Programs. Units completed during the semester of the proposal's approval count toward these 15 units.
- At least 21 semester units shall be completed in residence.
- At least 15 of the 21 in-residence units shall be in graduate (500-level) courses. The remaining units may be in 300- or 400-level courses.

Contact the ITDS coordinator for the detailed guidelines and the application form for the master's degree in interdisciplinary studies.