

A photograph of a university campus path with people walking, overlaid with a yellow and black text box. The path is lined with trees and leads towards a building in the distance. The scene is captured in a warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The text is prominently displayed in the upper left quadrant.

Interdisciplinary Studies, MA

Handbook

ASU New College
of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University



Greetings!

Welcome to the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University.

Your acceptance into our graduate degree program is evidence of your past academic accomplishments and your future potential. It is both an honor and an indication of the hard work and dedication you have invested into your education. Congratulations! Chances are you probably have questions, answers for most of which you will find throughout this handbook. But there are at least two questions I want to address here. First, “for how long will New College be new?” New College will always be New! That’s because New is not measured on a stopwatch or even a calendar. New is a mindset to never settle for the status quo, but instead continue to push the bounds of knowledge and understanding.

The next most-often question I receive is, “what is Interdisciplinary?” The dictionary tells us interdisciplinary involves two or more disciplines. We put that in practice in New College by building degree programs that break down the silos between traditional academic disciplines. Your studies will likely include courses offered across our three unique schools.

Please know, starting a graduate degree program is a huge next step in your life – and I want you to know that throughout your journey with New College, all of us are ready to help you through every phase. If your schedule allows, I invite you to visit our beautiful campus at any point during your studies. Come meet your faculty and advisors. I would sincerely appreciate meeting you as well. Looking ahead, when you graduate, please consider joining us in person for commencement, convocation, and our special New College reception just for online students.

We are thrilled you have chosen New College to pursue your graduate degree and we commit to being here with you every step of the way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd R. Sandrin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Todd R. Sandrin, Ph.D.

Dean, [New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences](#)

Vice Provost, [West campus](#)

Professor, [School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences](#)

Senior Global Futures Scientist - [Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory](#)

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Overview

ASU Charter

ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom we exclude, but rather by whom we include and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.

Visit [ASU Charter, Mission and Goals](#) for more information.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences supports all forms of equity, diversity, and inclusion and aims to foster a sense of belonging for all its students, staff and faculty. Diversity and inclusion at New College encompass gender identity and expression, race and ethnicity and also socioeconomic background, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability status, veteran status, nationality, linguistic background and intellectual perspective. Our unit and the University are deeply committed to building excellence, enhancing access, and having an impact on our communities, state, nation, and the world. This is actualized by our faculty and staff who reflect the intellectual, ethnic, and cultural diversity of our nation and world to ensure that our students learn from the broadest perspectives, and are engaged in the advancement of knowledge with the most inclusive understanding possible of the issues that are addressed through our scholarly activities.

Find more information at [Graduate Student Diversity Resources](#); [Center for the Study of Race and Democracy](#)

Welcome

Welcome to the MA program in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS)! We are honored that you are joining our innovative and unique program! MAIS, defined by a blend of theory and practice, is designed for students who wish to pursue a distinctive educational experience by drawing on the study of two or more disciplines. Integrating and converging aspects of the entire ASU curriculum, the MA program in Interdisciplinary Studies allows you to access all the vast resources the University has to offer. In addition, you will have the opportunity to analyze and synthesize major trends in critical thought over the last several decades. MAIS encourages you to push the boundaries of the disciplines and encourages innovative areas of study, practice, and research.

Our graduates have excelled in a variety of fields that include technology and the arts, documentary work, public service, community non-profits, education, government agencies, and doctoral studies.

MAIS is organized around the relationship between the individual student, the graduate staff advisor, and their MA Culminating Experience/Faculty director. As a Graduate student in MAIS, you should make plans to meet with your graduate staff advisor during both Fall and Spring Semesters. I am the acting director for all entering MAIS students until you select a faculty member with whom you wish to carry out your interdisciplinary work (usually by the second or third semester). As such, it is important to meet and consult with faculty that carry out research in areas of study that might be of interest to you early in the program. The success of the MAIS program is primarily founded on your engagement with interdisciplinary thinking, our trustworthy graduate advising, and ASU's renowned faculty who are fundamentally concerned with interdisciplinary research.

My hope is that during your graduate studies you feel a sense of belonging to the MAIS community. MAIS reflects the broad diversity of Arizona State University, and we take pride in the backgrounds of our students. As a part of the MAIS community, I invite you to take advantage of our monthly workshops and lectures. These are not only an opportunity for learning, but also an opportunity to meet with fellow MAIS students.

As you begin the program, please remember that I am always here to support you as you move forward in your studies.

Dr. C. Villegas-Silva
Associate Professor of Latin American Cultural Studies
Program Director, MA in Interdisciplinary Studies
School of Humanities, Arts & Cultural Studies
New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences
Arizona State University
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Quick Facts

Program location: West campus

Start terms: Fall A/C, Spring A/C

Time to completion: 24 Months

Student Support & Advising

Faculty Advising

On your Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS), you are required to list a minimum of two individuals who will advise the coursework selection part of the program (if you choose to work with more faculty members, they do not all have to be listed on the iPOS). The committee members listed on your iPOS should be the committee members you will work with on MAS 585: Capstone Course.

Forming relationships with faculty advisors is one of the most important elements of graduate education. Your faculty advisors can help you in selecting the proper courses, in developing a capstone project, and, more generally, in understanding the complexities of graduate-level education. Most importantly, your primary faculty advisor, also referred to as chair, will play a key role in guiding you through major research challenges. Of course, because your faculty advisors play such a key role in your education, the process of identifying the right ones and making contact with them can be anxiety producing. Here are some tips for overcoming that anxiety and finding the best faculty advisor for you.

- 1a. Review the faculty listed on the MAIS Advising Website (<https://newcollege.asu.edu/advising/graduate/interdisciplinary-studies-ma>) to identify those MAIS faculty members whose research interests correspond to your own. Then read some of those faculty members' work to gain a better knowledge of the research questions they ask, the methodologies they use, and the writing styles they employ.
- 1b. Talk to other MAIS students, the Program Director, and/or the Graduate Academic Success Coordinator, also known as the graduate staff advisor, (ncgradadvising@asu.edu) about your research interests and possible faculty advisors.
2. If possible, take a course or two with those faculty members whose interests correspond to your own, so that you can get to know them and their approaches to teaching.
3. Make arrangements to meet with prospective faculty advisors in order to discuss your interests and their availability for mentoring duties.

After you have identified your primary faculty advisor/chair, you should meet with him or her to discuss your Plan of Study (iPOS) in detail. Remember, the MAIS faculty and

staff are here to assist with your educational journey, but you should be proactive in finding the right guides for you!

Staff Advising

The New College Graduate Staff Advisor, also known as the Academic Success Coordinator, provides general advising designed to direct the student to courses and faculty who could best meet their academic and professional interests. The Graduate Staff Advisor is available to assist students in the development and completion of the Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS). For Graduate Staff Advisor questions call 602-543-3000 or email NCGradAdvising@asu.edu. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://advising.newcollege.asu.edu>.

My ASU Portal

On your My ASU portal you will find information about your courses, transcripts, transportation, student success and support, finances, university policies and the academic calendar. You can familiarize yourself [with these resources](#).

Student Responsibility

As a graduate student, you're responsible for reviewing and adhering to all university, college, and graduate college policies and procedures.

- Review this program handbook and communicate with your academic success team about any questions.
- Review your [program website](#) to ensure you have information related to course registration and course sequencing.
- Check your ASU email daily and review all messages from your New College Graduate Student Services team.
- Monitor your My ASU account regarding your status, holds, action items and other important information to ensure you're on track for your degree.

Admissions

Application Requirements & Deadlines

Admission to the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies is offered for the Fall A/C (August) and Spring A/C (January) semester starts. Completed admission files are reviewed on a rolling basis. Admission decisions are typically made within ten business days. Applicants are encouraged to apply early and have all application materials on file with ASU on or before any posted deadlines.

The Graduate College at ASU maintains a minimum requirement of admission to master's, certificate and doctoral programs. These minimum requirements can be reviewed on the [ASU Graduate Admission](#) site. Each degree program also establishes specific admission requirements. Please visit [ASU Degree Search](#) for details on application requirements. Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Science.

Application deadlines for New College graduate degree programs can be found online [here](#).

Admissions Contact Information:

Future Students: NC.GradStudies@asu.edu

Current Applicants: ncgradadmissions@asu.edu

Investment and Funding

Tuition and Fees

All amounts shown in the Tuition and Fees Schedules or in other University publications or web pages represent tuition and fees as currently approved. However, Arizona State University reserves the right to increase or modify tuition and fees without prior notice, upon approval by the Arizona Board of Regents or as otherwise consistent with Board policy and to make such modifications applicable to students enrolled at ASU at that time as well as to incoming students.

To view current year tuition, program fees, other fees, please visit the [Tuition and Cost Calculator](#).

To view historical information about tuition and fees, please visit [Tuition and Fees Schedule](#).

Financial Aid and Scholarship Services

For information on investing in your graduate degree visit [Financial Aid and Scholarship Services](#) online.

Current or incoming ASU students can call 24/7 at 855-278-5080.

Funding resources:

1. **Graduate College University Grant (GCUG):** This is a need-based award to support new and continuing masters and doctoral students with financial need as determined by information taken from the FAFSA. The GCF is intended to support in recruitment and retention of outstanding graduate students at Arizona State University. Students may receive this award for a maximum of four semesters throughout their degree study. Students must be nominated by their academic unit.

2. **Course Assistant Positions:** The primary way that our students are funded is through Course Assistant (CA) positions. These positions typically assist with undergraduate courses that are offered online. Courses are either half-semester (7.5 weeks) or full semester (15 weeks), and CAs are paid a stipend for each course. Positions are advertised as they become available.
3. **Research Assistant Funding:** On occasion, faculty may have funds that could be used to hire masters-level students to be research workers. These would typically be advanced (second-year) students who are involved in grant-funded projects.

Program Requirements

Degree Requirements

The Interdisciplinary Studies, MA requires 30 credit hours including 3 credit hours of culminating experience.

Visit [ASU Degree Search](#) for more information.

Program Description

The MA degree in Interdisciplinary Studies offered by the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences is an innovative program that allows students to combine the study of two or more disciplines.

Founded on the conviction that solving problems in the 21st century often requires an interdisciplinary approach, this flexible program provides exposure to a variety of research methods, historical perspectives and modes of inquiry.

The program offers access to faculty members who are active practitioners of interdisciplinary inquiry. Working with the faculty, students may define their own area of emphasis or adopt an existing area such as American studies; cultural studies; gender studies; digital media art; or philosophy, rhetoric and literature.

By developing their own course of study, students can choose to either tailor their MA degree in Interdisciplinary Studies to the pursuit of a specific goal or to cast a broad net and use the degree as a general intellectual foundation of a higher level than that provided by BA degrees in the humanities or social studies.

The skills and knowledge that diligent students will acquire can 1/be fruitfully harnessed in service of a great variety of professional goals in any institution, agency, or business that engages in research and/or education (or that does business with entities that engage in research and/or education), 2/used as a stepping stone towards any doctoral program in the humanities or the social sciences, and 3/aid in the pursuit of careers as

diverse as advertising and marketing, arts therapy, documentary film production, or gallery direction.

IAP Concentration

The MA in Interdisciplinary Studies concentration in Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance (IAP) centers on the integration of multiple arts genres to support students' creation of new and transformative work. The Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance concentration offers opportunities for learning within a multitude of arts disciplines such as music, sound, movement, acting, video, images, and games. With a focus on student excellence in artistic production, the MAIS concentration in Interdisciplinary Arts will push the boundaries of students' creative output in new and innovative forms, as well as provide outlets for expression and engaging in the exploration of new and evolving theories and practice within interdisciplinary arts. Guided by our renowned faculty, the student engages in the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies MAS 585 Capstone as their culminating experience. The semester-long Capstone requires the student to apply the knowledge and skills accrued in the program to develop a practice-oriented project. This blend of both interdisciplinary arts theory and practice prepares students for further advanced graduate education in pursuit of a Ph.D. The Interdisciplinary Arts Concentration is attractive to undergraduate IAP students, as well as to students from undergraduate programs in the fine arts, art studies, multimedia arts, and humanities, who are looking to advance their education through an interdisciplinary approach. Working in artistic mediums to explore other fields has become increasingly popular, and has proven invaluable to the public's understanding of topics otherwise limited to academia. Students in this concentration will engage in creative work to communicate topics relating to studies in the humanities, ranging from race and gender to border issues. These directions offer master's degree students a unique opportunity to combine studies in several different disciplines.

Student Learning Outcomes

Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) creates an innovative learning environment for post-baccalaureate students from all disciplines seeking to problem-solve via “out-of-the-box” interdisciplinary thinking and action. Motivated MAIS graduates will be well-prepared, interdisciplinary-skilled people, capable of meeting the multiple demands and challenges of today's workplace.

MAS 502

Learning outcomes:

- Introduce principles and practices of interdisciplinarity
- Extend knowledge and practices of graduate-level research
- Strengthen graduate-level writing and editing skills
- Enhance critical thinking skills

Direct measures of student achievement of outcomes:

- Produce short essays that demonstrate understanding of current scholarship on interdisciplinarity

- Conduct a critical literature review of a research topic
- Completion of Digital Portfolio

MAS 505

Learning outcomes:

- Acquaint students with a spectrum of 20th- and 21st-century theorists and their predecessors
- Summarize the key points of difficult theoretical texts]
- Reinforce the critical reading, research, and writing skills of MAS 502

Direct measures of student achievement of outcomes:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the vocabulary associated with various theories
- Demonstrate knowledge of how various theories can inform interdisciplinary research

MAS 501

Learning outcomes:

- Introduce practical quantitative and qualitative research methods
- Acquaint students with theoretical/methodological issues relevant to interdisciplinary inquiry
- Acquaint students with epistemological debates
- Reinforce principles of interdisciplinary graduate research
- Acquaint students with the ethical concerns of research

Direct measures of student achievement of outcomes:

- Obtain IRB certification for human subjects research, when applicable
- Produce a preliminary capstone proposal that displays the ability to analyze debates in the methodological literature
- Demonstrate ability to undertake multiple methods of inquiry
- Demonstrate ability to conduct literature searches across multidisciplinary databases
- Demonstrate ability to pose a researchable interdisciplinary question

Course Descriptions

Required Core (9 credit hours):

MAS 502 Perspectives in Interdisciplinary Studies (required for 1st semester students except for students who begin in the Spring semester)

This course serves as the MAIS students' introduction to interdisciplinarity through the exploration of epistemological and rhetorical practices that bridge traditional disciplines.

MAS 505 Theories of Change, Culture, and Mind (required for 2nd semester students except for students who begin in the Spring semester)

This course introduces students to graduate-level interdisciplinary study of key thinkers, movements, theories, and paradigms in 20th and 21st-century thought

MAS 501 Methods of Interdisciplinary Inquiry (required for 3rd semester students)

This course provides students with a critical survey of current models of inquiry, tools, processes, and methods in different fields in preparation for the capstone project.

Electives (Non IAP concentration students - 18 credit hours):

See Electives section.

Electives (IAP concentration students – 9 credit hours):

See Electives section.

IAP Concentration Requirements (9 credit hours):

MAS 560: Composition-Process, Technique and Style

Advanced study of specific compositional theories and procedures; in-depth analysis of individual work. Course Description: Composition: Process, Technique, and Style II takes an in-depth look at alternative methods of musical notation, including graphic, text, and video scores. Starting with John Cage and the New York School of composers, progressing through the Fluxus movement of performance, to today's computer-generated video projections, we survey the broad and multidisciplinary world of alternate notation.

MAS 569: Digital Graphic Applications

This course employs technology used in contemporary graphic design targeting design concepts and techniques for planning, design, authoring, development, and presentation of professional digital media graphics for the internet and print. The course is designed to aid student's understanding and approach to their own ideas and to allow their exploration in the creation computer generated media to realize their concepts. Critiques will serve to develop student's ability to analyze and produce digital graphic work, both their own and others, with a critical eye as well as apply the vocabulary specific to interdisciplinary media arts practice.

MAS 570: Language, Culture and Performance

This course provides an exploration of 'language in performance,' with in-depth emphasis on myth, tales, poetry and storytelling in the contexts of culture and place, orality, writing, performance genres, history and all artistic and popular media. As myth and tales are interdisciplinary, the readings, performances and study will be related to theories of language, theater/opera, audio and visual media, film, music. The course content revolves around selections and commentaries on myth and tale traditions from North American, Euro-American and world traditions to today. We will consider approaches to the subject derived from comparative arts, folklore and mythology, poetics and the social sciences. Several key issues will be examined from multiple perspectives. Who speaks? Who listens? What is 'speaking' in myth and tales? What is the relationship between oral and written texts and translations? What are the relationships among poets and their communities, societies, and culture? How do

myths/tales and oral traditions change? What can be said about the variations or versions of tales? What are the definitions of myths, legend, the poetic etc. - and how have they changed? How are myth and tale related in different cultures? How should matters of “authorship” be addressed? How do words and texts become images, dramas, dance, films, performances? What types of knowledge is produced through myths/tales? What occurs in performance? How are myths, etc. represented in literary, psychological, rhetorical, artistic, and popular genres? What can contemporary artists learn with/from myths and tales? Students will be required to write papers, create in-class presentations and participate in- class exercises and performances. A primary goal of this course is for students to focus on a particular myth, tale, figure or area of study creatively and through research.

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours):

MAS 585: Capstone Course

MAIS students register for **MAS 585: Capstone** in their final semester of study. This course is structured as an independent study in which the student works closely with the Chair (primary faculty advisor) and committee member (secondary advisor). Note: Full-time students are required to plan their course of study in a way that does not make it necessary to register for any courses alongside MAS 585. Part-time students are urged to explore ways to prevent the need to take a course alongside MAS 585. When needed, the Program Director may allow a student to register for 3-credit hours alongside MAS 585.

Electives:

These are courses that will count toward your electives and are offered through the MAIS program. However, students are encouraged to choose any courses (at the appropriate level) from various units at ASU that will further their interests. When equivalent courses are offered by various units, it is strongly preferred that MAIS students take the course offered by the program’s home college (New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at the West Campus). Courses drawn from the general ASU catalog should be selected in consultation with one’s chair and are approved by the program director.

MAS 510 – Science and Religion: Cosmologies and Worldviews

This course examines science and religion, stressing modern scientific findings and philosophical/historical debates and dialogues.

MAS 511 – Technology, Environment and Humanity

This course critically analyzes technology in relation to human and environmental issues.

MAS 512 – History and Philosophy of the Social Sciences

Examines the development, historical content, and long-term importance of major theories of human nature from the 17th century until today.

MAS 513 – Sociology of Everyday Life

Examines institutional ethnography, a way of exploring the particular and generalized social relations that shape people's everyday experiences. Prerequisite: graduate standing or instructor approval.

MAS 550 – Philosophical and Spiritual Approaches to Death and Dying

Examines how death and dying contribute to an understanding of human existence, through the writings of Plato, Aquinas, Kübler-Ross, Derrida, and others. Prerequisite: graduate standing or instructor approval.

MAS 553 – Latin American Cities

An interdisciplinary study of Latin American world cities (Mexico City, Santiago, etc.) emphasizing integration with U.S. cities, including Los Angeles and Phoenix.

MAS 580 – Practicum: Capstone Development

This practicum is a graduate-level Capstone Project development course – a conceptual phase for general research and creative output. Students will examine the theories and practices of interdisciplinary research and creativity while following a series of developmental strategies towards the development of a final concept paper.

MAS Omnibus Graduate Course Descriptions

Students can select to take these courses when it is appropriate.

MAS 584 - Internship

Structured practical experience following a contract or plan, supervised by faculty and practitioners. Students may earn a maximum of 6 hours of internship credit with approval from the iPOS Committee Chair and Program Director.

MAS 590 - Reading and Conference

Independent study in which a student meets regularly with a faculty member to discuss assignments. Course may include such assignments as intensive reading in a specialized area, writing synthesis of literature on a specified topic, writing literature review of a topic.

MAS 591 - Seminar

A small class emphasizing discussion, presentations by students, and written research papers.

MAS 592 - Research

Independent study in which a student, under supervision of a faculty member, conducts research that is expected to lead to a specific project such as a thesis, report, or publication. Assignments might include data collection, experimental work, data analysis, or preparation of a manuscript.

MAS 598 - Special Topics

Topical courses not offered in regular course rotation - e.g., new courses not in the catalog, courses by visiting faculty, courses on timely topics, highly specialized courses responding to unique student demand.

Culminating Experience

Summary of Culminating Experience

The capstone is the integrative project undertaken at the end of the program of study. It may take the form of a traditional research paper, an original creative work, or an applied project. This course is structured as an independent study in which the student works closely with the Chair (primary faculty advisor) and committee member (secondary faculty advisor). It is recommended that students do not enroll in any other courses during this final semester; however, if it is necessary to do so, students may register for one non-core course in addition to MAS 585. If a student seeks an exception to this recommendation, they must receive permission from the program director.

Every master's degree in Interdisciplinary studies requires a completion of an approved capstone that demonstrates the student's ability to perform original, independent and interdisciplinary research. The purpose of the capstone is to demonstrate the student's ability to conduct research in their chosen fields/disciplines, to interpret the results, to demonstrate the relevance of the work to conceptual and practical issues in the chosen disciplines and to present the finds in intelligible prose or a capstone project. The master's capstone director should be appointed no later than the 3rd quarter of the student's studies.

The student must develop a proposal approved by the MA capstone director and a second faculty reader. Students are advised to meet with their committee members before submitting the proposal. The student's capstone chair and faculty advisor will determine the length and scope of the project, however most written capstones are 70-100 pages long.

Culminating Experience Eligibility and Registration

To be eligible for registration in MAS 585 a student must:

- Complete or be enrolled in a minimum of 24 credit hours of coursework that appears on their interactive Plan of Study (iPOS)
- Complete or be enrolled in and expect to complete the core courses (MAS 502, MAS 501, MAS 505) prior to beginning MAS 585
- For concentration students: complete or be enrolled in and expect to complete the core courses as well as the required concentration courses (MAS 560, MAS 569, MAS 570) prior to beginning MAS 585

- Have an up to date and approved iPOS on file
- A completed and approved digital portfolio
- Have the approval of their faculty committee chair
- Complete the [online 585 registration MAS form](#).
 - The online form includes the requirement to upload a 100 word abstract describing the student's plan to complete the capstone project and a link to the student's digital portfolio. Students must grant their chair and the program director access to the digital portfolio if not already published.

It is recommended that a student request permission to enroll in MAS 585 no less than 2 weeks prior to the start of the semester. If a student does not successfully complete coursework in the semester preceding MAS 585 and they are already registered for the course then the student may be removed from the course until they meet the requirements above.

Capstone Graduation Checklist

After you have successfully registered for MAS 585, please review the following information to ensure a successful and smooth graduation process.

- Apply for graduation through your My ASU account online.
- Review [dates and deadlines](#) established by ASU Graduate College. Discuss these dates with your committee to determine dates to submit drafts and a date to submit the final project.
- Complete the capstone according to the recommendations, suggestions, and revisions provided by your graduate capstone committee.
- When your final project is approved by your faculty committee:
 - a. The Chair of your committee will input a letter grade for your MAS 585 course.
 - b. Two weeks before the completion of the semester in which you are enrolled in the capstone course, please submit an electronic copy of your capstone project, including a 100-word abstract, to the Academic Success Coordinator (staff advisor) at NCGradAdvising@asu.edu. In the email please indicate whether or not you give permission for this to be included in an online library of capstone projects that may be viewed by other students.

Degree Progress

Registration and Course Selection

Students will register for classes each semester via My ASU and use their course sequence or approved iPOS as a guide for registration. The schedule of classes is available [here](#).

The recommended course sequence varies slightly for each admit term and can be viewed online at the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies [advising website](#). It is important to

consider your personal and professional commitments when you select a completion timeline.

Continuous Enrollment Policy

To remain active at ASU graduate students must be continuously registered for a minimum of 1 graduate credit hour in every fall and spring semester.

Students who fail to enroll in any semester (not including summer) will be dropped automatically by the ASU Graduate College and have to re-apply and be re-admitted to continue working towards the degree.

Please review the Registration and Course Selection above. Depending on course availability, some programs may require summer registration.

Drop/Add Withdrawal

The [ASU Academic Calendar](#) lists specific dates and deadlines for each semester. Exceptions to published dates are rare and made on a case-by-case basis.

Request Leave of Absence

Students can apply for a formal waiver of the continuous enrollment requirement or a leave of absence (up to 2 semesters). These must be submitted via the iPOS in My ASU and approved by the student success team, program director, and the Graduate College prior to the semester for which the waiver or leave is requested.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

As a graduate student it is your responsibility to be aware not only of your program's requirements, but also policies set in place by the Graduate College. Students are required to be aware of and understand the current [ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures](#), the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#), as well as any policies outlined in this manual.

In addition to requirements outlined in New College Satisfactory Academic Progress Policies students must achieve a grade of "B-" or higher in all **required courses** that appear on the approved Plan of Study (required courses are listed in the [ASU Academic Catalog](#)). A student who receives a "C+" or lower in a core course in their program must repeat the course in a regularly scheduled (not an individualized instruction) class. Although only the "B-" or higher can be included on the iPOS GPA, both grades will be used to compute the Cumulative GPA and the Overall Graduate GPA.

Required Interdisciplinary Studies Courses: MAS 505, MAS 501, MAS 502

Required Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance Concentration Courses: MAS 560, MAS 569, MAS 570

Culminating Experience: MAS 585

*Requires a "B" or better

Review the complete policy and performance requirements [here](#).

Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS)

What is the Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS)?

The Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS) functions as an agreement between the student, the academic unit, and the ASU Graduate College. It will support you as you make progress toward your degree requirements. ([Learn More](#))

The iPOS allows you to plan for your course load, can guide registration each term, and provides an anticipated timeline for degree completion.

How do I select courses for my iPOS?

At the time of admission students in the MA Interdisciplinary Studies program are provided with a recommended sequence of courses that can be completed within 2 years.

The recommended course sequence can be viewed online at the MA Interdisciplinary Studies (ground) [advising website](#). It is important to consider your personal and professional commitments when you select a completion timeline.

Failure to follow the provided course sequence may delay time to degree completion. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with the academic success team at ncgradadvising@asu.edu if there are any challenges with the course sequence.

How to create an iPOS

To access the iPOS: Login to [My ASU](#). From the My Programs box, under the Programs tab, select iPOS. Select Graduate Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS). Note: Pop up blockers may need to be turned off.

You will find instructions for submitting the iPOS in the downloadable [how-to guide](#).

All of the information you need to submit your iPOS including course requirements by semester, faculty advisor, and anticipated graduation term are available on the course sequence on [advising website](#).

When do I file my iPOS?

To facilitate program completion and shorten time to complete the program, graduate students are encouraged to complete their iPOS in their **first semester**. Students who have not completed their iPOS by the time they have enrolled for 50 percent of the minimum credit hours required for their degree program will receive a registration hold.

No student will be allowed to register for the culminating experience without an approved and up-to-date iPOS on file.

When the Faculty Supervisor and Program Director review the iPOS, they will look to see that the student has met the program requirements described above. In addition, we will check to make sure that the student is in compliance with the following additional rules below:

- The student must be enrolled in at least one credit during each Fall/Spring semester after admission (see [ASU Graduate College Continuous Enrollment Policy](#), pages 8-9)
- Students will be limited to 9 credit hours of individualized instruction, any combination of 590, 592, 580. The Program Director can approve additional 3 credit hours of individualized instruction when no scheduled courses can adequately further the student's progress.
- Students will be limited to 6 credit hours of individualized instruction with any one instructor.
- Students will be limited to 3 credit hours of individualized instruction with a faculty member outside of the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. The Program Director can approve an additional 3 credit hours of individualized instruction with a faculty member outside of the New College under exceptional circumstances.
- A maximum of 6 credit hours of 400-level coursework (when appropriate graduate coursework is not available). Any 400-level coursework must be approved by the Director
- MAS 585 Capstone must be included on your iPOS
 - The student must have one faculty chair and one faculty committee member assigned.

All courses that appear on the iPOS are applied toward the student's MA degree and are ineligible to be applied toward a future graduate degree. As such, we recommend listing only the 30 credits required for the MA degree on the iPOS.

Can I update my iPOS?

Yes! Once approved, the iPOS can be updated to accommodate changes in your course selection.

Graduation Requirements

Congratulations on nearing the completion of your master's degree. There are a few administrative items that need your attention:

- 1) Ensure you have an approved and up-to-date iPOS on file.
- 2) [Apply for graduation](#) via My ASU

Applying for graduation and registering to attend in-person graduation

ceremonies are separate but related issues. Applying and paying your graduation fee ensures that your degree will be processed after coursework is complete and certification of your degree is issued. Registering for attendance at ceremonies ensures that seating will be made available for you and your guests for the event(s) you will attend. It also ensures tickets will be reserved for those events that require tickets.

Ceremonies

There are a variety of opportunities to celebrate this milestone. Two of the most popular ceremonies are Commencement (ASU ceremony) and Convocation (College ceremony).

Commencement: Commencement ceremonies are the official graduation events for the university. During the university's graduate Commencement, President Crow confers degrees on all ASU graduate students (master's and doctoral candidates).

- **Master's degree candidates** will be hooded at Graduate Commencement, but will **NOT** be called individually to cross the stage.
- **Doctoral candidates** will be hooded at Graduate Commencement, have their names called and cross the stage individually to receive congratulations.

Convocation: Convocation ceremonies celebrate graduating New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences students and their achievements. During Convocation, New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences **graduates are individually recognized** for their academic achievement, including crossing the stage while their name is read.

Register to Attend an Event

All ASU graduation ceremonies require reservations (RSVPs) from graduating students who wish to participate. Attendance is not mandatory or you may elect to attend one or more ceremonies.

[Register to Attend Commencement](#)

[Register to Attend New College Convocation](#)

Summer graduates completing coursework in August may opt to participate in ceremonies the May prior to course completion or the December following course completion.

Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity

Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to adhere to the [Arizona Board of Regents Student Code of Conduct](#).

Academic Integrity

The highest standards of [academic integrity](#) and compliance with the university's [Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Academic Integrity Student Policy](#) are expected of all graduate students in academic coursework and research activities. The failure of any graduate student to uphold these standards may result in serious consequences including suspension or expulsion from the university and/or other sanctions as specified in the academic integrity policies of individual colleges as well as the university.

For more information please visit: the [Graduate College's Policies, Forms, and Deadlines](#) and [Maintaining Academic and Research Integrity](#).

Resources

There are a number of resources available in the program and through the university.

Funding for Travel

We encourage our students to present research at national and international academic conferences. As such a number of options exist for funding travel to these events.

1. MA program funding. The MA program makes limited funding available (maximum of \$300 per year) please review your program advising website for more information.
2. ASU Graduate College Travel Grants. ASU's Division of Graduate College makes a limited number of travel grants available to students presenting at conferences. These grants typically cover airfare from Phoenix to the conference location. This award has four application deadlines per year and must be applied for well in advance of the travel date. Applications must be submitted to the director of the graduate program. See <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/funding-opportunities/awards-and-fellowships/travel-awards> for more information and deadlines.
3. Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Travel Grants. ASU's graduate student association offers a variety of travel awards available. Individual travel awards (to conferences) are up to \$950 and have a monthly application deadline. Group travel grants are for teams of student researchers presenting a symposium or other group project. Interview travel grants are need-

based grants made available to students who require funds in order to travel to an academic interview (e.g., at a PhD program). Details and application materials can be found at <http://gpsa.asu.edu/funding>.

Professional Development Funding

Professional Development Funding will provide financial assistance to eligible graduate students enrolled in the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) program. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the fund is exhausted. Students may receive up to \$400 towards Professional Development. To apply for Professional Development Funding, please visit:

<https://newcollege.asu.edu/advising/graduate/interdisciplinary-studies-ma/proffdevapp>

Academic and Professional Services

- [ASU Library](#) now has an online tutorial version of "Library 501: What Grad Students Need to Know about the Library" workshop available for online and ground students and anyone else for whom it might be useful. The [Library 501](#) tutorial can be found on the tutorials page under "[Other Tutorials](#)".
- [Career & Professional Development Services](#) – resource for finding jobs and internships, career advising, and more; online services available.
- [Graduate Academic Support Services](#) – in-person (all campuses) and online, no-cost writing and statistics tutoring (most services are free except for special sessions, refer to the website for more details).

New College/West Campus - Amenities

- [Dining Options](#)
- [Banks](#)
- [Parking & Transit](#)
- [Campus Shuttles](#)

Student Support Services

- [Counseling](#)
 - [Graduate Student Wellness Resources](#)
 - [Graduate Student Wellbeing](#)
- [Educational Outreach & Student Services \(Dean of Students Office\)](#)
- [Graduate Student Diversity Resources](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Housing](#) and [Off-Campus Housing](#)
- [ID Cards](#)
- [International Student Services Center \(ISSC\)](#)
- [Sexual Violence Awareness, Prevention and Response](#) (Title IX)

- [Statistics and Methods \(SAM\) Lab](#)
- [Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services \(SAILS\)](#)
- [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Veterans](#)

University Contact Information

- [Emergency Services](#)
- [Graduate College](#)
- [GPSA Outreach](#)
- [Provost's Office](#)
- [Student Business Services](#)
- Title IX Information and Coordinator
 - ASU prohibits all forms of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. To view ASU's policy please see <https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html>.
 - Title IX protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in any educational program or activity operated by recipients of federal financial assistance. As required by Title IX, ASU does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities that we operate, including in admission and employment. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator or to the U.S. Department of Education, Assistant Secretary, or both. Contact titleixcoordinator@asu.edu or 480-965-0696 for more information. Office located at 1120 S. Cady Mall, INTDSB 284. For information on making a report please go to www.asu.edu/reportit/.
- [University Technology Office/IT Help](#)

Program Contact Information

With specific questions about the Graduate Program in Interdisciplinary Studies, contact:

[Claudia Villegas-Silva, Ph.D.](#)
 Associate Professor of Latin American Studies
 Barrett Honors College Faculty
 School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies
 Arizona State University
 New College of Arts & Interdisciplinary Studies
villegas-silva@asu.edu

or

Graduate Studies Advising Team
 New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

(602) 543-3000

NCGradAdvising@asu.edu

With general questions about ASU Graduate Studies policies/procedures, contact:

Graduate College

Interdisciplinary Building, B Wing, Suite 285 – Tempe campus

<http://graduate.asu.edu/>

With questions about tuition, scholarships, and financial aid:

ASU Financial Aid

University Center Building, Suite 101

<http://students.asu.edu/financial-aid>

