Individual Interdisciplinary Thesis Degree Policy

- An individual interdisciplinary thesis degree may be done only between thesis Master’s or doctoral programs. Qualifying students are not eligible.
- Students doing interdisciplinary degrees shall be registered in the home graduate program.
- The home graduate program will give one discipline to the degree, e.g., if the home program is History, the degree will be in “History and …”
- The home program will provide the supervisor.
- The home program will be responsible for handling all matters of administration. The home program will be responsible for ensuring that office space and all necessary facilities, e.g., computer, labs, etc., are provided.
- The graduate program of the co-supervisor will be designated the conjoint program. It will provide the second designation on the degree. For example, following the illustration above, if the conjoint program is Political Science, the degree will be in “History and Political Science.”
- Before admission to an individual interdisciplinary thesis program, the graduate coordinators of both the home and conjoint programs must agree, in writing, to the following:
  a) the rationale describing the necessity for an interdisciplinary program
  b) the suitability of the student
  c) the supervisory/co-supervisory arrangements
  d) for doctoral students, the coursework to be completed before candidacy examinations
  e) funding arrangements
- The supervisory committee for doctoral students will consist of the supervisor (home program), the co-supervisor (conjoint program) and at least one other member.
- The supervisor and co-supervisor must agree as to the external examiner for the Doctoral Oral Thesis Examination.
- In the case of a doctoral student, the examining committee for the candidacy examination must consist of:
  a) the supervisory committee
  b) one member from each of the home and conjoint programs
  c) one member from neither the home nor conjoint program
- In the case of a doctoral student, the final oral examination committee must consist of:
  a) the supervisory committee
  b) one member from each of the home and conjoint programs
  c) one member from neither the home nor conjoint program
  d) one member external to the university
- In the case of a Master’s student, the examining committee must consist of:
  a) the supervisor and co-supervisor
  b) one member from each of the home and conjoint programs
  c) one member from neither the home nor conjoint program
• The initial impetus for an interdisciplinary degree program must come from the student who shall apply in writing to the home program, with a copy to the conjoint program. Such application must come:
  a) prior to the first registration as a graduate student, or
  b) at least six months prior to the candidacy examination for a PhD student, or
  c) within the first six months of study for a Master’s student

• All interdisciplinary programs must be approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. An application to the Dean must be made by the home program, endorsed by the conjoint program, and shall include all the information outlined in point 9 above. The Dean’s approval must be available before a Master’s student can proceed to second registration or a doctoral student to candidacy.

• A student may request transfer from an interdisciplinary program upon application to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies on a Change of Registration or Status form. The form must be signed and accompanied by an explanation, which includes the details specified in #9 above, from the heads of the home and conjoint programs.

• All faculty regulations concerning the role and responsibilities of supervisors and co-supervisors shall apply.

• All other faculty regulations and deadlines shall apply.

• In the case of scholarships that are restricted to students in a particular program, interdisciplinary students would be eligible to apply for such restricted scholarships in both home and conjoint programs.

Checklists:

• Master's Applicants
• Doctoral Applicants