

GUIDELINES FOR GRADUATE INTERDISCIPLINARY DEGREE PROGRAMS

Application

1. Complete the Graduate School application forms and return them to the Graduate School along with the \$50 non-refundable application fee.
2. Write the registrars of all colleges or universities attended (including UNC) and request that two official copies of your transcripts be sent to the Graduate School.
3. If applying for a doctoral program, request that one official copy of your GRE General Test Scores (not more than five years old) be sent to the Graduate School.
4. Submit three letters of recommendation stating that you have the ability to pursue a graduate interdisciplinary degree. (Letter of recommendation forms are available in the Graduate School Office.)
5. Submit a written statement of career goals and objectives and a rationale for pursuing the chosen interdisciplinary program.
6. Submit a list of the primary disciplines (departments/divisions) which will be combined in the proposed program. At least one of the primary disciplines must offer a program leading to the desired degree, i.e. MA, MS, EdS, DA, or EdD.
7. Submit a current vita, which summarizes academic and professional experiences, activities, publications, and other pertinent information.

Preliminary Review

The Graduate Interdisciplinary Degree Program (GIDP) Committee will conduct a preliminary review of all application materials of each applicant who satisfies the minimum admission requirements of the Graduate School. Those applicants who do not meet the minimum admission requirements of the Graduate School will be denied admission.

If the GIDP Committee is satisfied with the application, the Graduate School will forward the application materials to the appropriate disciplines (departments/divisions/school) for evaluation. If the GIDP Committee is dissatisfied with the application, the Graduate School will notify the applicant of the committee's concerns. Those applicants who receive such notification may re-submit application materials after addressing the concerns of the GIDP Committee.

Upon receipt of the application materials from the Graduate School, the faculty in the appropriate disciplines will evaluate the application and recommend to the Graduate School that the applicant be granted or denied provisional admission status. Each discipline recommending provisional admission must designate a Graduate Faculty advisor, subject to Graduate School approval.

All appropriate disciplines must recommend provisional admission and must designate Graduate Faculty advisors before the Graduate School will grant provisional admission status.

Provisional Admission

When notified of provisional admission status, the student, in conjunction with the designated Graduate Faculty advisors, is authorized to prepare a program proposal which must be submitted to the Graduate School on the "Graduate Interdisciplinary Degrees Plan of Study" form.

Regular admission is contingent upon final review and acceptance of the program proposal by the GIDP Committee. Provisionally admitted students are authorized to complete a maximum of 15-semester hours of coursework applicable to the degree program. Students are encouraged to prepare and submit program proposals as soon as possible.

However, there is no limit, however, to the amount of deficiency credits that can be taken while on provisional admission status.

Program Proposal

The program proposal must meet the following criteria.

- A. **MASTER'S DEGREE:** Proposed coursework must equal at least thirty (30) semester hours excluding any deficiency credits.
SPECIALIST DEGREE: Proposed coursework must equal at least thirty (30) semester hours beyond a master's degree excluding any deficiency credits.
DOCTORAL DEGREE: Proposed coursework must equal at least sixty-four (64) semester hours beyond a master's degree excluding any deficiency credits. If an applicant does not hold a master's degree, the proposed coursework must equal at least ninety-four (94) semester hours.
- B. **MASTER'S and SPECIALIST DEGREES:** At least twelve (12) semester hours of graduate level coursework must be proposed in each of at least two primary disciplines (departments/divisions/school). Courses numbered 622, 699, and 701 may not be used to meet this requirement.
DOCTORAL DEGREE: At least fifteen (15) semester hours of graduate level coursework must be proposed in each of at least two primary disciplines (departments/divisions/school). If an applicant does not hold a master's degree, the proposed coursework in each of at least two primary disciplines must equal a minimum eighteen (18) semester hours. Courses numbered 622, 797, and 799 may not be used to meet this requirement.
- C. Secondary disciplines (departments/divisions/school) are defined as those disciplines in which nine (9) to eleven (11) semester hours of coursework are proposed at the master's and specialist levels or those disciplines in which nine (9) to fourteen (14) semester hours of coursework are proposed at the doctoral level. Secondary disciplines must approve the coursework as a part of the program.
- D. If the Graduate Faculty advisors determine that a student has any deficiencies in his/her background, the proposal must list the coursework necessary to alleviate those deficiencies. (Deficiency courses must be completed at the earliest possible date.)
- E. Introduction to Graduate Research (master's level) or Advanced Research Methods (specialist and doctoral level) or one of the research oriented substitute courses approved by the Graduate Council must be proposed. The proposal must also contain at least one additional research course as approved by the student's committee.

- F. Proposed courses must be offered with sufficient frequency to allow completion of the degree requirements within a reasonable amount of time, e.g. two years for a thirty (30) semester hour program or three to four years for a sixty-four (64) semester hour program. Furthermore, research and library resources must be available to facilitate the completion of the thesis, if applicable, or dissertation.
- G. No more than one-third of the proposed courses may be double-numbered courses.
- H. No more than nine (9) semester hours, individually or in combination, of courses numbered 508, 513, or 622 may be proposed or counted in the degree program.
- I. **MASTER'S DEGREE:** If a thesis is proposed, the thesis must be a minimum/maximum of six (6) semester hours.
SPECIALIST DEGREE: Include at least five (5) semester hours in DS or departmental prefix 701, "Specialist Degree Practicum."
DOCTORAL DEGREE: Include four (4) semester hours of dissertation proposal research (departmental prefix 797) and twelve (12) semester hours of dissertation (departmental prefix 799).
- J. **MASTER'S and SPECIALIST DEGREES:** One of the designated Graduate Faculty advisors must be named as the program advisor.
DOCTORAL DEGREE: When there are only two primary disciplines proposed, one of the two designated Graduate Faculty advisors must be named as the program advisor. In addition, the two designated advisors and the student must recommend at least one additional Graduate Faculty advisor, subject to approval by his/her department/division chairperson and the Dean of the Graduate School.
- K. Program proposals must conform to all other Graduate School policies and procedures, e.g. transfer to credit.

Prior to submission to the Graduate School, the "Graduate Interdisciplinary Degrees Plan of Study" form must be signed by the student, all Graduate Faculty advisors, and all primary and secondary department/division chairpersons.

Regular Admission

Upon receipt of the completed "Graduate Interdisciplinary Degrees Plan of Study" form, the Graduate School will forward the form and the original application materials to the GIDP Committee for final review. The student, the Graduate Faculty advisors, and the primary and secondary departments/ divisions will be notified by letter regarding program approval or disapproval. If approved, the student will be granted regular admission. NOTE: Until such a letter is received, the student remains on provisional admission status.

The decision of the GIDP Committee and the Dean of the Graduate School shall be final.

Advising

Together, the Graduate Faculty advisors are known as the program advisory committee. It is the responsibility of the program advisory committee to assist the student in planning and coordinating the degree program.

Any deviation from the approved proposal must be approved in advance by the program advisory committee and the Graduate School.

ALL GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES APPLY TO INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDENTS.

Committees

The "Specialist Degree Practicum" shall be under the direction of a practicum supervising committee. If the members of the practicum supervising committee are not the same as the members of the program advisory committee, the members of the practicum supervising committee must be approved by the Graduate School prior to the start of the practicum.

At the doctoral level, the program advisory committee plus a Graduate Faculty representative appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School shall serve as the oral comprehensive examination committee. The doctoral dissertation proposal and dissertation shall be under the supervision of a research advisor, who is a member of the Doctoral Research Faculty, and a research committee. (See "Appointment of Committees" in the "Doctoral Degree Program Requirements" section of the current UNC Bulletin for details.)

Comprehensive Examinations

Each interdisciplinary degree program student must pass a written comprehensive examination which is designed, administered, and evaluated by the program advisory committee and by other qualified individuals as identified by the program advisor. All doctoral students must also pass on oral comprehensive examination. (Refer to the comprehensive examination information in the appropriate degree requirements section of the current UNC Bulletin for details.)

All Graduate School policies related to comprehensive examinations are applicable to interdisciplinary program students except that a comprehensive examination permit will not be released if the student's grade point average is less than 3.00 in any primary program area.