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# New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

[www.west.asu.edu/newcollege](http://www.west.asu.edu/newcollege)

Barry G. Ritchie, PhD, Interim Dean

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## PURPOSE

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences offers academic programs that prepare students to take their places as active participants in a rapidly changing social, political, and natural environment. These programs seek to provide students with the skills necessary for independent thinking and effective expression; an understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures past and present; sensitivity to the aesthetic dimensions of human endeavor and the natural environment; and, an appreciation and understanding of scientific perspectives and methods as tools for understanding nature and society. The college's integrating principle or focus is social concern and community engagement.

The college has built a blend of interdisciplinary, integrative, and disciplinary programming that transcends academic boundaries while providing much of the general studies for the campus. The college's teaching and research are guided by a linkage of theory and practice, engaging the local community through service learning activities, internships, and arts programming.

## ORGANIZATION

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences houses the following academic units:

Department of Integrated Natural Sciences  
Department of Integrative Studies  
Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance  
Department of Language, Cultures, and History  
Department of Mathematical Sciences and Applied Computing  
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Women's Studies

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The Master of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies is a collegewide interdisciplinary program offered by faculty representing the different disciplines that make up the college.

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## Interdisciplinary Studies

### Master's Program

[www.west.asu.edu/mais](http://www.west.asu.edu/mais)

602/543-6241

FAB N230D

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**Candice D. Bredbenner, PhD,**  
Director and Associate Dean

**Professors:** Cutrer, Kirby, Lerman, McGovern, Mueller

**Associate Professors:** Anokye, Bredbenner, Broaddus, Collins-Chobanian, Cuádriz, Elenes, Gilkeson, Hattenhauer, Mengesha, Miller, Murphy Erfani, Sabatini, Stryker, Taylor, Vaughan, Wertheimer

**Assistant Professors:** Cabrera, Clark, Marshall, Simmons, Ukpanah

**Senior Lecturer:** Soto

**Lecturer:** Kennedy

**Fine Arts Specialist:** St. Clair

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## MASTER'S PROGRAM

The Master of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies is a graduate program designed to fulfill the needs of postbaccalaureate students who wish to pursue an advanced degree for

1. job advancement or redirection,
2. personal development and intellectual growth, or
3. preparation for further graduate study.

Prospective students include those working in the public educational system, particularly secondary education teachers who intend to increase and integrate their knowledge in content areas; those employed in the corporate sector and social service system; and professionals who wish to return to the university and pursue enrichment in liberal arts areas.

The degree is composed of 30 semester hours of course work. Three required core courses develop advanced critical thinking skills and knowledge of current research tools, technologies, and methodologies in a variety of fields. Working with a faculty mentor, each student plans a set of

emphasis courses to meet their educational goals. Emphasis courses may be selected from graduate course offerings from departments throughout the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, as well as from other colleges and schools with approval from the director. Examples include a plan to study ethics and environment, media and ethnicity, urban studies, and the arts. The program of study may include one elective course and will conclude with a capstone experience requiring a written or applied project.

**Admission.** Admission to the master’s program is open to individuals who meet the following criteria:

1. holders of baccalaureate degrees from institutions with regional accreditation,
2. demonstrated promise of success through previous schooling and experience,
3. have academic and career goals that are compatible with the educational objectives of the program, and
4. have taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

The GRE requirement may be waived if the applicant has attended a graduate or professional school that required a standardized admission test.

**Application.** The application deadline is March 15 for fall semester. For admission procedures access the Web site at [www.asu.edu/graduate/admissions](http://www.asu.edu/graduate/admissions).

Letters of recommendation for admission processing should be sent to

MA IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES PROGRAM  
 NEW COLLEGE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS  
 AND SCIENCES  
 ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY  
 PO BOX 37100  
 PHOENIX AZ 85069-7100

**Admission Process.** Each application is reviewed by a faculty committee. Candidates are selected after consideration of the undergraduate GPA, GRE scores, academic and work experiences, letters of recommendation, personal statement, and writing sample, as specified by program application forms.

**Program Requirements.** This 30-semester-hour degree program includes the following courses:

**Required courses**

MAS 500 Perspectives in Interdisciplinary Studies .....	3
MAS 501 Models of Inquiry for Contemporary Issues.....	3
MAS 505 20th-Century Thought: Concepts of Change, Culture, and Mind .....	3
MAS 585 Capstone Course .....	3
Emphasis area .....	15–18
Elective.....	0–3
Minimum total .....	30

**Emphasis Area.** Working with a faculty mentor, students select 15 to 18 semester hours of graduate-level course work that reflects a particular area of specialty or interest. Students may elect to take the degree in conjunction with the graduate Certificate in Gerontology.

**MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (MAS)**

**W MAS 500 Research Methods. (1–12)**

*selected semesters*

Topics may include the following:

- Perspectives in Interdisciplinary Studies. (3)  
*fall and spring*  
 Introduction to interdisciplinary studies through explorations of epistemological and rhetorical practices that bridge traditional disciplines.

**W MAS 501 Models of Inquiry for Contemporary Issues. (3)**

*fall, spring, summer*

Provides a critical survey of current models of inquiry, tools, processes, and methods in different fields.

**W MAS 505 20th-Century Thought: Concepts of Change, Culture, and Mind. (3)**

*fall, spring, summer*

Introduces graduate-level interdisciplinary study of key thinkers, movements, theories, and paradigms in 20th-century thought.

**W MAS 510 Science and Religion: Cosmologies and World Views. (3)**

*once a year*

Examines science and religion, stressing modern scientific findings and philosophical/historical debates and dialogues.

**W MAS 511 Technology, Environment, and Humanity. (3)**

*once a year*

Critically analyzes technology in relation to human and environmental issues.

**W MAS 512 History and Philosophy of the Social Sciences. (3)**

*once a year*

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

**W MAS 513 Sociology of Everyday Life. (3)**

*once a year*

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.

**W MAS 529 Latinas and Latinos, Schooling, and Social Inequality. (3)**

*spring*

Advanced interdisciplinary understanding of the issues facing Latinas and Latinos in K–16 schooling in the United States. Lecture, seminar.

**W MAS 553 Latin American Cities. (3)**

*once a year*

Interdisciplinary study of Latin American world cities (e.g., Mexico City, Santiago), emphasizing integration with U.S. cities, including Los Angeles and Phoenix.

**W MAS 585 Capstone Course. (3)**

*fall, spring, summer*

Assists students in preparing their capstone project, which represents the culmination of their study for the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies.

**Omnibus Courses.** For an explanation of courses offered but not specifically listed in this catalog, see “Omnibus Courses,” page 63.