INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (PHD)

Interdisciplinary Studies (PhD)

This program allows faculty to propose interdisciplinary programs of study that will form the basis for suitable areas of specialization to train students. **Students may not propose individualized degrees through this program.**

Interdisciplinary programs often cross departmental and unit boundaries. The area of specialization proposed by the faculty must meet the criteria in terms of minimum credit hours and the distribution of coursework across disciplinary lines. Proposed areas of specialization will be subject to approval by the following academic bodies:

1. Unit Curriculum and Budget Committees
2. Graduate Council
3. Office of Academic Planning and Accountability

The development of an interdisciplinary specialization is the responsibility of the faculty, but the Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Studies will provide assistance and guidance. Participating faculty must have the consent of their departmental Chair or Dean to participate in an Interdisciplinary specialization. Students will choose a primary mentor from the faculty who are participating in the program.

Requests for further information or assistance should be addressed to:

Graduate School

Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Studies
Houchens Building, Suite 105
University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky 40292
Phone: (502) 852-6495
Email: graduate@louisville.edu

Admission Requirements

Applicants for interdisciplinary doctoral programs must present complete admission credentials in order to be formally admitted by the Graduate School.

The required credentials are:

1. A 3.25 grade point average.
2. Scores on the Graduate Record Exam General Test, if required by one of the programs for admissions.
3. Proof of a Baccalaureate Degree and official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work.
4. International students for whom English is not their primary language must show English language proficiency by one of the following:
   a. TOEFL examination score at or above (5.0 on the TWE test), 213 (computer-based test),79 (internet-based test)
   b. IELTS test score of 6.5 or higher
   c. Duolingo score of 105 or higher
   d. Demonstration of a degree awarded by an acceptable English-language institution.
5. Three letters of recommendation from individuals who are able to comment on the student's academic abilities and potential for success in graduate studies.

Program Requirements

In addition to established Graduate School policies and requirements, each Interdisciplinary PhD Program Track will be required to meet specific criteria as follows:

1. The curriculum must include coursework representing each of the disciplinary areas in the interdisciplinary degree program. An overall minimum of 36 credit hours of graduate level coursework is required, but may be higher to reflect the standards for doctoral study in the disciplines represented in the interdisciplinary degree program.
2. Each program must be designed so that it is not dominated by a single department's offerings. A minimum of six (6) credit hours of 600-level course work must be taken in each of at least two different departments or programs offering graduate degrees.
3. The curriculum plan must include coursework that provides training in research methodology deemed suitable to the interdisciplinary nature of the program.
4. A dissertation involving original research that crosses established disciplinary lines is required.
5. Faculty serving on committees and as mentors in the Interdisciplinary Studies PhD program must have a doctorate degree or substantial evidence of relevant experience and must hold membership in the Graduate Faculty of a unit.
6. A student's primary mentor must meet their unit's minimum graduate faculty guidelines for directing doctoral dissertations. If a student's mentor has not directed a dissertation in the past, the student must also have a co-mentor who has previous experience directing dissertations and be currently eligible to serve as a dissertation committee chair for per the graduate faculty guidelines.