



LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY

THE GRADUATE
SCHOOL

MA in Interdisciplinary Studies FAQ's

Liberty University | 1971 University Blvd. | Lynchburg, Va. 24515

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program at Liberty University. This degree allows you to design a graduate degree by combining two areas of study that are traditionally associated with a single discipline. Through this program, you will be encouraged to engage in interdisciplinary study and research from across academic fields. Designed to be a flexible graduate-level program, you can build a degree around topics of interest that suit both your personal and career goals. Interdisciplinary students are given the option to combine graduate courses from across nine of Liberty University's schools or colleges. An introductory course (INDS 500) will familiarize you with interdisciplinary studies and a culminating research course (INDS 600) will provide you the opportunity to synthesize your education in interdisciplinarity for professional application.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Analyze knowledge of the literature of the discipline of two areas of study by examining the interdisciplinary relationship of each discipline
- Integrate biblical principles through a professional and interdisciplinary context
- Synthesize the knowledge gained from their study across disciplines

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies fully online?

Yes, students can complete all of their coursework fully online.

What is an Area of Study?

An Area of Study is an academic discipline and grouping of coursework offered through Liberty University. Students in the program will be required to select two different areas of study as outlined on the Degree Completion Plan and in the Area of Study Guide. These two areas of study will be used to build a personalized degree and provide a specific listing of courses available to the student.

What is the Area of Study Guide?

The Area of Study Guide provides a list of approved areas of study and courses for accepted students to select from. A student must declare two areas of study (Area of Study I and Area of Study II) once applied to the program. A Student may only take courses listed on the Area of Study Guide and in their declared areas of study when enrolled in the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies.

What are Graduate Electives on the Degree Completion Plan?

Graduate Electives allow students to select any two classes of interest, totaling 6 credit hours, from the Area of Study Guide. These classes do not need to fall within your selected Area of Study I or Area of Study II. Any class listed on the Area of Study Guide may be selected to meet the Graduate Electives, permitted prerequisites are met when applicable.

How do I declare my Areas of Study?

Once you have applied for admission into the program, please call LUO Admissions (or speak to your Academic Advisor if you are a current student transferring into the program) at 1-800-424-9595 to declare your areas of study. You may also email INDSareas@liberty.edu with your declared areas of study. Please include your LU Student ID in the email. You will receive a confirmation email once approved.

Why am I unable to select two Areas of Study under the same discipline on the Area of Study Guide?

In order to be truly interdisciplinary, students must select areas of study from two different disciplines. Certain areas of study fall within the same discipline due to the similarity of their coursework and literature. As outlined in the Area of Study Guide, these areas of study are grouped together under a single discipline header and cannot be paired together for this degree program. Students can select one area of study from two different grouped disciplines.

How many credit hours can I transfer into the program?

A total of 15 graduate credit hours can be transferred in the program and must be evaluated by the Office of Transfer Evaluations. These credit hours can come from graduate coursework or a conferred graduate degree from an accredited institution.

Can I transfer in an Area of Study?

An area of study may be transferred into the program dependent upon an evaluation of your transcripts by the Office of Transfer Evaluations. In order to fulfill an area of study, your transfer coursework must come from an accredited institution and satisfy the full 12 credit hours needed for Area of Study I or 9 credit hours needed for Area of Study II. If your transfer credit does not apply to an area of study, it can be transferred and applied towards Graduate Electives.

How do I get a transfer Area of Study approved?

Official transcripts must be submitted with your application. Upon review by the Office of Transfer Evaluations and Program Director, students will be notified of their area of study transfer options and if a full area of study can be transferred into the program.

If my transfer credit does not fulfill an Area of Study, can I still apply them towards my degree?

Yes, these transfer credits can be used towards the 6 credit hours of Graduate Electives.

What if I've taken classes at Liberty not on the Area of Study Listing Guide? Can they still be applied towards the program?

Yes, current Liberty University students may transfer coursework into the program to fulfill Area of Study I (must bring 12 credit hours from one discipline) or Area of Study II (must bring 9 credit hours from one discipline). The Office of Transfer Evaluations and the Program Director will review Liberty coursework prior to approval.

What do I do if I need to switch my Area of Study?

If you are an accepted student and wish to change your area of study, please email INDSareas@liberty.edu with your LU Student ID and desired area of study change(s). You must receive an approval email from the Office of Transfer Evaluations prior to enrolling in classes in your newly declared area of study.

When do I take INDS 500?

INDS 500 – Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies must be taken within the first 9 credit hours of the program. A hold will be applied to a student's account if not completed within the first 9 credit hours. It is recommended that students take this course as their first class to prepare them for coursework in the program.

When do I take INDS 600? Why does it have an Advisor Permissions Hold?

INDS 600 – Interdisciplinary Research must be taken within the last 9 hours of the program. Students cannot register for this class on their own and must call their Academic Advisor to be enrolled. An Advisor Permissions Hold is assigned to this class to ensure it is taken at the end of the program. It is recommended that students take this course as their last class to ensure they have proper knowledge of their two areas of study.

Will this degree and the courses offered through certain Areas of Study lead to licensure?

No, courses in this program do not lead to licensure.

Does the degree require an internship or thesis?

No, students will not need to complete an internship or thesis. However, students will need to complete INDS 600 – Interdisciplinary Research in their last semester.

Will my diploma list my Areas of Study?

No, the diploma will only display the degree and major, not areas of study. It will show that a graduate earned a Master of Arts as the degree. Underneath the degree title, it will list Interdisciplinary Studies as the major.

What are the benefits of pursuing an MA in Interdisciplinary Studies?

Students are able to customize graduate courses to meet their personal and professional goals. The degree offers a student-centered approach with the freedom to explore courses relevant to an individual's interests or needs. In the 21-century, there is a growing need for interdisciplinary thinkers who can think outside of the traditional boundaries of a single discipline. Whether for career advancement or personal growth, the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies at Liberty University Online offers flexible course selections with academic excellence.

What if I have further questions?

If you have further questions regarding the program, please email MAinterdis@liberty.edu.