

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat on a wooden surface. The pages of the book are replaced by a vibrant landscape: a dirt road with two tracks leads from the center of the book towards a vast, flat green field under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The book's spine is visible in the center, and the edges of the pages are visible on either side.

FREEDOM TO EXPLORE

The Interdisciplinary Studies Master's Program offers established concentrations in a variety of disciplines, or students can design their own degree in individualized studies.

EXPLORE WHAT POSSIBILITIES AWAIT YOU

mais.gmu.edu

Students pursue a master of arts in interdisciplinary studies (MAIS) in one of the following concentrations:

COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

Merging social science with computer programming and modeling

Computational social scientists investigate social science questions with modern computational tools. This concentration merges social science with computer programming and modeling for students from both computer science backgrounds and the humanities and social sciences. While some computer knowledge is useful, students in the CSS program are not expected to be programmers.

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Training the sustainability professionals of the future

A sustainability education lies at the intersection of environmental science, engineering, economics, business, public policy, social justice, as well as other areas. Energy and sustainability professionals focus on finding ways to meet the present demand for energy and material goods without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The energy required to fuel all of these endeavors is a crucial component of sustainability.

INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES

Design your own master's with a mission

The DIY master's degree! This concentration invites applicants whose educational or professional goals cannot be met by a traditional Mason master's degree to design their own interdisciplinary degree path prior to applying to the program. Previous individualized studies degrees have included wildlife conservation, theater education, and ethnomusicology.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Studying religion as an organizing principle and source of conflict in society

Discover how religious perceptions of the sacred respond to an evolving world and relate to and influence cultures, institutions, and values. Religious studies students pursue careers in law, national and international government, print and media journalism, library sciences, teaching, and organizations that address conflict and its aftermath.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Engaging with real-world issues while committing to social justice and caring for human dignity

Social entrepreneurship provides the theoretical and practical toolkit to engage real-world issues in industry, nonprofits, government, public policy, and education. Emerging social entrepreneurs can turn innovative ideas into reality by fostering their desire to model and implement sustainable, practical, and ethical solutions to social problems, while working effectively within complex networks made up of divergent groups of stakeholders

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Imagining and applying strategies for creating and sustaining a more equitable, just, and humane world

The social justice and human rights concentration provides a deep theoretical foundation for understanding the social, political, cultural, historical, and economic implications of an array of social injustices and human rights issues. The concentration emphasizes a global and intersectional approach, while providing flexibility for students to focus on issues to which they are most committed, including topics such as racial and environmental justice, human trafficking, disability rights, immigration, and human rights.

WAR AND THE MILITARY IN SOCIETY

An interdisciplinary approach to the study of war and security in the past, present, and future

In the 21st century, the thorough study of global security demands thinkers who can make broad connections across time and apply the methods of several disciplines to solve complex problems. The ways that armies are raised and funded, the reasons troops serve, the conditions military personnel and civilians endure during war-time, and the ways that nations conceive their military apparatus all have direct bearing on future policy decisions. This concentration provides broad training for careers in national defense, intelligence, and international security.

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

Combining research, teaching, and activism focusing on the intersections among gender, sexuality, race, and class

Merging interests in the intersections among gender, sexuality, race, and class with course work in history, literature, sociology, anthropology, health, education, philosophy, social work, conflict analysis and resolution, or the arts is a central component of this concentration. This concentration is committed to a multidisciplinary pedagogy ensuring students can explore courses throughout the university that advance their intellectual and professional goals. Students, faculty, and staff will find a welcoming home that supports their work and personal development both inside and outside the classroom.

WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES?

- **Fast track your career with accelerated degree pathways available for current Mason undergraduates**
- **Get credit for experiential learning**
- **Take courses and work with faculty from across the university**
- **Conclude your degree with a capstone research project**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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