Program Highlights

Individualized Studies is your opportunity to design an interdisciplinary graduate program to develop expertise spanning multiple areas to meet your distinctive educational and professional goals. By crafting your own degree path you can leverage the courses and faculty strength of the entire university. This program is not for everyone. The curriculum students pursue should reflect a detailed plan of study that makes intellectual sense and that cannot be completed within available degree programs at the university.

Disciplinary Focus and Complementary Disciplines

To help students develop a plan of study, beginning in Fall 2022, we have curated lists of classes in a variety of disciplines that can be combined to meet the degree requirements. Applicants should simply identify two fields and use the fields’ associated course lists to create an individualized MA degree. Within these fields, the MAIS program can help you find a graduate faculty member to support your degree. Please contact mais@gmu.edu with questions.

Fields available include Anthropology; Art History; Communication; Computational Social Science; Creative Writing (Fiction); Creative Writing (Nonfiction); Creative Writing (Poetry); Criminal Justice; Criminology, Law and Society; Economics; Energy and Sustainability; European History; Folklore Studies; Global Affairs; Global History; Higher Education Leadership; Linguistics; Literature; Middle East and Islamic Studies; Philosophy; Professional and Technical Writing; Psychology; Religious Studies; Science Communication; Social Entrepreneurship; Social Justice and Human Rights; Sociology, Spanish; Spanish Heritage Language; Spanish-Bilingual and Multicultural Education; Student Affairs; Teaching Writing; TESOL; U.S. History; War and Military in Society; Women and Gender Studies.

Career Paths

Students have pursued careers as varied as the paths taken to arrive at graduation. For example, students interested in integrating sustainability into their career as a facilities manager might combine courses from the sustainability and hospitality management programs. Educators may be interested in combining courses from the school of psychology and secondary education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing to improve their knowledge of special learning populations and the social issues these students face in today's educational environments. Government employees interested in a career interacting with the media could combine courses in government and rhetorical performance. There are a wide range of concentrations that can be created based on each student’s professional career aspirations.

Who’s in the Program

Successful students in Individualized Studies are those willing to put in the work to meet with professors and craft relationships outside of the established degree pathways.

mais.gmu.edu
MAIS: A Master’s With A Mission

The Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) program in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences consists of multiple established degree paths that exist in partnership with academic units and faculty across the University. It offers a home for students with broad academic interests who seek a master’s degree that will help them to create a better world. While their degree paths may vary dramatically, our students share a desire to address critical problems facing the world today.

Available Degree Paths
- Computational Social Science - Energy and Sustainability
- Individualized Studies - Religious Studies - Social Entrepreneurship
- Social Justice and Human Rights - War and the Military in Society
- Women and Gender Studies

Why Mason

Mason offers a multitude of well-respected programs at the master’s level. As a MAIS student you have access to craft your degree from across the university. Mason’s proximity to the Washington, D.C., area means you have access to gaining real world experience, no matter the field you choose to pursue, as well as access to Mason’s large alumni network in the area. Mason’s academic programs offer you the chance to fulfill your dreams and take the road less traveled – the path you are choosing!

Degree Requirements - 36 Total Credits

**Required Courses** - 5 Credits
- MAIS 796 ProSeminar
- MAIS 797 Interdisciplinary Studies Proposal
- Research Methods Course

**Disciplinary Focus** - 12-18 Credits
Students select a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 18 credits in one discipline

**Complementary Disciplines** - 9-18 Credits
Students take 9-18 courses in complementary disciplines. These require the approval of faculty advisor and MAIS director.

**Capstone Project or Thesis** - 1 or 4 Credits

How to Apply

Applicants to this concentration must use the application process not only to establish their qualifications and credentials, but also to design the proposed degree and demonstrate faculty support. Along with the completed Application for Graduate Admission and application fee, applicants should submit:

- Goal statement
- Degree plan appended to goals statement
- Letter of support from the applicant’s proposed faculty advisor
- Additional letter of recommendation
- Writing sample

See [chss.gmu.edu/admissions](http://chss.gmu.edu/admissions) for complete details on the application process.

An Accelerated Master’s pathway (BAM) is available to current undergraduates. For more information about this program, visit: [chss.gmu.edu/accelerated-masters/about](http://chss.gmu.edu/accelerated-masters/about)

Contact Information

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