



Interdisciplinary Studies

INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES

Customize Your Master's Degree

Program Highlights

Individualized Studies (INDV) is your opportunity to design a graduate program spanning multiple areas to meet your distinctive educational and professional goals. Crafting your own degree path allows you to leverage the courses and faculty strength of the entire university. This program is not for everyone. 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.

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. To help students develop a plan of study, we have curated lists of classes in a variety of disciplines (see sidebar) that can be combined to meet the degree requirements. Within these fields, the MAIS program can help you find a graduate faculty member to support your degree. Please contact mais@gmu.edu for more information.

There are a wide range of concentrations that can be created based on each student's professional career aspirations.

Students have pursued careers as varied as the paths taken to arrive at graduation.

- Students interested in facilities management might integrate sustainability into their career by combining courses from the sustainability and hospitality management programs.
- Educators might combine 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 might combine courses in government and rhetorical performance.

mais.gmu.edu

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

mais@gmu.edu

Degree Requirements - 36 Total Credits

Required Courses - 6 Credits

MAIS 793 Integrated Learning Experience - 3 Credits

Research Methods Course - 3 Credits

Disciplinary Focus - 15 Credits

Select 15 credits in one discipline. These require the approval of faculty advisor and MAIS director.

Complementary Disciplines - 12-15 Credits

Students take 12-15 courses in complementary disciplines. These require the approval of faculty advisor and MAIS director

Capstone Project of Thesis (Optional) - 3 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 for complete details on the application process.

MAIS: Design Your Own Degree

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. While their degree paths may vary dramatically, our students share a desire to address critical problems facing the world.

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