

## Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

## Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies

**Director: Daryl Jones**

College of Arts and Sciences

Education Building, Room 601, Mail Stop 1500

Telephone (208) 426-1414

FAX (208) 426-3006

e-mail: ids@boisestate.edu

### General Information

Boise State University offers a Master of Arts/Master of Science degree program in Interdisciplinary Studies. In consultation with faculty, students may combine courses from more than one college or more than one department to create an individualized program of educational experience. The program is designed for mature students who wish to continue education at the graduate level but do not seek specialized training in a major area. The program is not a substitute for the traditional master's degree; rather, it is intended for students with broader interests in several fields or those whose career goals do not match fully with a single, identifiable academic unit or department. Emphasis is placed on continued intellectual and cultural development in a constantly changing society where new intellectual and career interests may extend over several traditional specializations.

The Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) Program is administered by the Graduate College, housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, and directly supervised by the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies. A university-wide Interdisciplinary Studies Committee consists of the Graduate Dean and one member from each academic College appointed by the respective Deans. The Director of Interdisciplinary Studies serves as the chair of that committee and oversees the program. Each student in the program also has a graduate committee composed of three faculty members from the disciplines making up the student's interdisciplinary program. The student's graduate committee has the responsibility of helping the student select a particular program of study and recommends to the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee that it be accepted as the student's formal plan of study, thereby indicating that the members of the committee regard it as a viable program of graduate study. The Interdisciplinary Studies Committee is responsible for approving the members of the proposed graduate committee and for deciding whether to approve the student's plan of study.

### Application and Admission Requirements

A prospective student must first satisfy general admission requirements and complete the process for admission to the Graduate College, as described in the Graduate Admission Policies and Procedures section of the *Boise State University Graduate Catalog*. General admission to the Graduate College does not guarantee admission to a graduate program in Interdisciplinary Studies. For admission to the MA or MS Program in Interdisciplinary Studies, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. A cumulative GPA in all prior college level work of at least 3.0 (although students who fall below this requirement but who have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 for the most recent 60 credit hours will also be considered).
2. Successful completion of the IDS Program's application process, which includes:
  - a. meeting with the IDS Program Director to discuss expectations and be advised as to the remainder of the application process,
  - b. selection of a graduate committee composed of 3 graduate faculty members, one of whom is to serve as committee chair,
  - c. meeting with graduate committee to discuss and prepare a degree plan,
  - d. submission of a completed *Personal Data* form,
  - e. submission of a completed form stating committee has met and approved that degree plan,
  - f. submission of a degree plan and three-page written statement of justification which:
    - states intellectual, professional, or vocational reasons for requesting entry into the program;
    - explains why traditional degree programs do not meet the applicant's needs; and
    - justifies the selection of courses in relation to the conception of the individualized program as a whole.
  - g. submission of two letters of recommendation,
  - h. approval of the graduate committee and degree plan by the university-wide IDS Committee.

Although each applicant's prior academic record will be examined to determine whether there are compelling reasons for making an exception, normally the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee will not consider proposed degree plans from students who fail to meet requirement 1). Applicants who wish to submit additional supporting materials such as GRE scores, letters of recommendation, or a preliminary description of their proposed program of study may do so. Letters of recommendation and preliminary program descriptions should be sent directly to the Director of the IDS Program.

Applications to the IDS Program are considered only twice a year, in October and in March. Application materials as described above must be submitted by **October 1** for processing during the fall semester or by **March 1** for processing during the spring semester.

*Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit completed IDS application materials by March 1st or October 1st of the semester prior to the semester of proposed entry into the program, so as to avoid commencing course work which may not be accepted as part of an approved degree plan. The student's graduate committee and degree plan must be approved before the completion of more than 6 credits toward the program.*

## Degree Requirements

Master of Arts or Master of Science Interdisciplinary Studies
<p>Each program is developed individually according to the student's interests and background but must be intellectually defensible and clearly interdisciplinary in nature. In addition to any Graduate College requirements not mentioned here, the requirements of the IDS Program are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Course work must be selected from a minimum of two academic areas.</li> <li>2. No more than 6 credits of work completed prior to approval of the degree plan by the IDS Committee may be included in the program.</li> <li>3. No more than 11 credits of 300G or 400G courses may be applied toward the program.</li> <li>4. No more than 9 transfer credits may be included in the program.</li> <li>5. No more than 9 credits of independent study (596) may be included in the program.</li> <li>6. Courses may not be challenged for credit.</li> <li>7. The degree will consist of a total of no less than 33 credits, of which no more than 16 credits may be earned in the College of Business. Students may select (with IDS Committee approval) from a thesis/project option or a written examination option. The thesis/project will carry 6 credits. Under either option, the student will be required to draw critically upon the two or more disciplines studied and to integrate disciplinary insights.</li> <li>8. Students completing the thesis/project option will, upon completion of that option, meet with their 3-person graduate committee for a final review of the thesis or project.</li> <li>9. Students completing the examination option will take a written examination prepared by their 3-person graduate committee, with whom they will subsequently meet for a review of results.</li> <li>10. Minor revisions to the plan of study may be approved by the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies upon the recommendation of the student's graduate advisor; major changes must be approved by the university-wide IDS Committee.</li> <li>11. All work toward the MA/MS degree in Interdisciplinary Studies must be completed within a period of seven years.</li> </ol>

## Course Offerings

### INTDIS—INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

**INTDIS 591 PROJECT (0-V-6).** Students are expected to draw critically upon the two or more disciplines studied and to integrate disciplinary insights. Before beginning the Project, a prospectus must be approved by the student's graduate committee. After its completion, the Project must be defended at an oral examination scheduled by the graduate advisor. PREREQ: Admission to candidacy.

**INTDIS 593 THESIS (0-V-6).** A Thesis must reflect scholarly integration of the two or more disciplines studied and demonstrate original research or new and logical interpretation of existing data. Before beginning the Thesis, a prospectus must be approved by the student's graduate committee. After its completion, the Thesis must be defended at an oral examination scheduled by the graduate advisor. PREREQ: Admission to candidacy.

## Master of Science in Materials Science and Engineering

College of Engineering

Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Graduate Program Coordinator: Peter Müllner

Micron Engineering Center, Room 302F, Mail Stop 2075

Telephone (208) 426-5136

FAX (208) 426-2470

e-mail: petermullner@boisestate.edu

**Engineering Graduate Faculty:** Darryl Butt, Janet Callahan, Kris Campbell, Sean M. Donovan, Megan Frary, Will Hughes, William Knowlton, Amy Moll, Peter Müllner, Rick Ubic, Bernard Yurke

**Physics Graduate Faculty:** Charles Hanna, Byung-Il Kim, Alex Punnoose, Dmitri Tenne

**Chemistry and Biochemistry Graduate Faculty:** Eric Brown, Henry Charlier, Jeunghoon Lee, Owen, McDougal, Jeff Peloquin, Dale Russell, Martin Schimpf, Don Warner

**Biological Sciences Graduate Faculty:** Julia Thom Oxford

## General Information

The Department of Materials Science and Engineering offers two distinct graduate degree programs. The program leading to the Master of Science in Materials Science and Engineering (M.S. MSE) is a thesis-based program designed to prepare students for research and development and further study at the doctoral level. The program leading to the Master of Engineering in Materials Science and Engineering (M.Engr. MSE) is a non-thesis program with a focus on professional development. Both programs are interdisciplinary and involve faculty members from the College of Engineering and the College of Arts and Sciences with expertise in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, physics, chemistry, and biology.

## Admission and Application Requirements

**Admission Requirements** An applicant must satisfy the minimum admission requirements of the Graduate College. In addition, the applicant must hold a baccalaureate degree in engineering from an ABET-accredited program or a baccalaureate degree in physics or chemistry, and must follow the application procedures specified below. Admission is competitive and the achievement of minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

**Application Procedures** A prospective student may apply at any time and should follow the general graduate application procedure for degree-seeking students (see Applying as a Degree-Seeking Student in this catalog). The applicant must also 1) submit a statement of purpose to the graduate program coordinator, 2) have three letters of recommendation submitted directly by the references to the graduate program coordinator, and 3) arrange to have GRE