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**PROGRAM/DEGREE REQUIREMENT CHANGE (MAJOR)**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Department	Graduate School & Interdisciplinary Programs	College/School	Provost Office
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See <http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/curriculum/course-degree-procedures/> for a complete description of the rules governing curriculum & course changes.

**PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION:**

DEGREE PROGRAM	Interdisciplinary
Degree Level: (i.e., Certificate, A.A., A.A.S., B.A., B.S., M.A., M.S., Ph.D.)	Ph.D.

**A. CHANGE IN DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: (Brief statement of program/degree changes and objectives)**

Add an additional 18 credits to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. degree.  
Add the requirement of an oral defense of the written research proposal.

**B. CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AS IT APPEARS IN THE CATALOG:**

**M.A., M.S., Ph.D. Degrees**

Minimum Requirements for Degrees: M.A. and M.S.: 30 credits; Ph.D. 18 thesis credits.

The UAF Interdisciplinary program provides flexibility to students who have well-defined goals that do not fit into one of the established majors offered by the university. Interdisciplinary Studies is located in the Graduate School office. Help with the application process, contact information for faculty advisors and assistance for interdisciplinary students is available at 907-474-7464 or see [www.uaf.edu/gradsch/classes/interdisciplinary-program](http://www.uaf.edu/gradsch/classes/interdisciplinary-program).

**Degrees**

- M.A. or M.S., Interdisciplinary Studies
- Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Studies

(NOTE at this time, the requirements for the M.A. or M.S. Interdisciplinary Studies are not changing. The catalog changes refer only to the interdisciplinary Ph.D. requirements.)

**Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Studies**

- Complete the admissions process including the following:
- Must have Master's degree or professional degree
  - (a) Submit GRE scores
  - (b) In consultation with a UAF faculty member: prepare and submit a statement of research goals and justification for interdisciplinary approach, and a preliminary graduate study plan.

Minimum Requirements for Degree: Ph.D.: 18 thesis credits

**General University Requirements**

Complete the general university requirements. (p. 244)

**Ph.D. Degree Requirements**

Complete the Ph.D. degree requirements. (p. 248)

Pass a comprehensive examination.

**C. PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS AS IT WILL APPEAR IN THE CATALOG WITH THESE CHANGES:**

*(Underline new wording strike through old wording and use complete catalog format )*

**Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Studies**

- Complete the admissions process including the following following admissions requirements:
  - (a) Submit GRE scores (scores must be less than 5 years old)
  - (b) Complete a master's degree
  - (c) In consultation with a UAF faculty member: prepare and submit ~~a statement of research goals and justification for interdisciplinary approach, and a preliminary graduate study plan.~~
    - a. Statement of Academic Goals
    - b. Research Prospectus
    - c. Proposed Graduate Study Plan
  - (d) Other materials: resume, official transcripts, 2 academic letters of recommendation, 2 Letters of Endorsement from 2 proposed Ph.D. Advisory Committee members (1 from UAF committee chair, and 1 from a different department.)

Minimum Requirements for Degree: Ph.D.: ~~18 thesis credits~~ 36 credits

**General University Requirements**

Complete the general university requirements. (p. 244)

**Ph.D. Degree Requirements**

Complete the Ph.D. degree requirements. (p. 248)

- Thesis credits (F699) 18 credits
- Coursework\* 9 credits
- Additional coursework or thesis credits 9 credits
- Pass both a written and oral comprehensive exam.
- Pass an oral defense of the written research proposal (this may be the oral comprehensive exam)

\*Complete coursework in thematic areas as determined by the advisory committee

Pass a comprehensive examination.

**D. ESTIMATED IMPACT**

WHAT IMPACT, IF ANY, WILL THIS HAVE ON BUDGET, FACILITIES/SPACE, FACULTY, ETC.

There will not be any impact on the budget, or space. It could affect faculty workloads and class size.

**E. IMPACTS ON PROGRAMS/DEPTS:**

What programs/departments will be affected by this proposed action?

Include information on the Programs/Departments contacted (e.g., email, memo)

No individual programs/departments will be impacted as the additional individual courses that the interdisciplinary Ph.D. students will be required to take are courses that are already approved and offered.

**F. IF MAJOR CHANGE - ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAM:**

*Description of the student learning outcomes assessment process.)*

**The INDS Ph.D. program's Student Learning Outcomes reflect its Mission Statement:**

*The UAF INDS program allows self-directed students to develop a customized program to research problems or issues that require integrating the perspectives of multiple disciplines* ✓

**and its Goal Statement:**

*Students will develop subject matter and methodological expertise in pertinent disciplines, and will be exposed to multiple ways of thinking about and approaching problems.* ✓

**The INDS Ph.D. program's student learning outcomes include:**

1. Students will be able to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of at least two disciplines ✓
2. Students will be able to: a) formulate research objectives and methods, b) gather data, and c) interpret it according to the standards of the fields ✓
3. Students will be able to conduct research at the national standard of quality for the fields and make substantial original contributions to knowledge in their fields ✓
4. Students will demonstrate strong academic writing skills in applicable fields ✓
5. Students will exhibit strong oral communication skills within academic disciplines and with the public ✓
6. Students will be prepared for a career in the field of their choice. ✓

**The INDS PhD Council Program is developing rubrics for the systematic assessment of the comprehensive exams, dissertation, and dissertation defense, to be used by committee members evaluating these requirements.** ✓

**JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION REQUESTED**

The purpose of the department and campus-wide curriculum committees is to scrutinize program/degree change applications to make sure that the quality of UAF education is not lowered as a result of the proposed change. Please address this in your response. This section needs to be self-explanatory. If you drop a course, is it because the material is covered elsewhere? Use as much space as needed to fully justify the proposed change and explain what has been done to ensure that the quality of the program is not compromised as a result.

In January of 2015, a new INDS Council was developed and charged with improving the INDS doctoral program. The structural changes described here are intended to insure the interdisciplinarity (at least two distinct disciplines) and need for the INDS degree, as well as improve its rigor, structure, support, and clarity. ✓

**APPROVALS: SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE**

NA	Date	
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of:		
Mary F. Ehrhardt	Date	5-1-17
Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:		
	INDS Ph.D. Council	
	Date	5/4/17
Signature, Dean, College/School of:		
Dr. Michael Castellini	6/1/17	

CHAIR SIGNATURE OBTAINED FOLLOWING APPROVAL BY FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature, Chair, UAF Faculty Senate  
 \_\_\_\_Curriculum Review Committee  
 \_\_\_\_Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee