WHY SHOULD YOU CONSIDER THE MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES?
A good B.A. or B.S. degree deliberately leaves its recipient hungry for the mental stimulation that continued learning can supply. But everyday life intervenes: a career, a family, a move to a different town. Continuing education courses meet some of the need, but the mature and intellectually curious person may come to a point when a more systematic and academically disciplined approach is desired. From its inception in 1979, The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program has been an option to this type of student by offering:
- Guidance in focusing your exploration of knowledge
- The opportunity to integrate work from several disciplines into a program that is academically and personally meaningful
- The solid achievement of a Master of Arts degree
- The possibility of pursuing these studies as either a part-time or full-time student
- With careful planning and in close coordination with a faculty-advisor, the degree can be completed fully online

CONCENTRATIONS
The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program allows students to design a graduate degree that integrates classes from a multi-disciplinary perspective; in addition to that, the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program offers four concentrations which have pre-established curricula. Students interested in pursuing a concentration must contact the coordinator prior to applying.

Maine Studies** (Dr. Carol Toner, carol_toner@umit.maine.edu), Peace and Reconciliation Studies** (Barbara Blazej, barbara_blazej@umit.maine.edu), New Media (Dr. Owen Smith, owen_smith@umit.maine.edu), and Women Studies (Dr. Mazie Hough, mazie_hough@umit.maine.edu).

** The Maine Studies and Peace and Reconciliation Studies options are concentrations that may be fully completed by distance education technologies

THE PROGRAM OF STUDY (POS)
Study for the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) requires a minimum of 30 credit hours. All work for the master’s degree must be completed within six years of the time of first registration or earliest transfer credit.

SUMMARY OF CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MAIS Core Seminar LIB 500 Exploring Interdisciplinarity (Mandatory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–6</td>
<td>MAIS Core Seminars (LIB 500). A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 9 total LIB 500 credit hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15–18</td>
<td>Graduate-level classes (500 or 600 level). A maximum of 6 credits can be 400-level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–9*</td>
<td>MAIS Master Project (LIB 699) credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Credit hours minimum, of which at least 12 credits must be in 500 or 600 level courses exclusive of LIB 699</td>
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* Graduate School Policy states that no more than 15 credits of thesis/project work should be included as part of a Master’s degree.

During the application process the potential student will identify a University of Maine graduate faculty member who must agree, in writing, to serve as major advisor. Students wishing to pursue a particular area of research should contact potential faculty advisors as early as possible, to ensure that appropriate faculty are available to support the anticipated POS.

The student, in conjunction with his/her advisor, drafts a proposal for a Program of Study (POS), which lists all courses that will fulfill the requirements for the MAIS degree, along with a brief description of the work proposed for a Master Project. The POS is reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Studies Review Committee during the admission process to ensure that the coursework reflects the objectives of the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies Program.
Once a student has been admitted into the MAIS program, and after he/she has completed 12 credits of study, or before their third registration (whichever comes first), he/she is required to form an Advisory Committee composed of a total of three members (the major advisor, and two additional University of Maine graduate faculty members) chosen by the student. The Advisory Committee will validate the student’s POS and once they do, the POS will become the student’s required graduate curriculum. Any changes to the curriculum must be made either prior to obtaining the Advisory Committee’s signatures, or if changes take place after the POS has already been submitted to the Graduate School, wards, a Request for Change in Program of Study form will have to be submitted to update the status of the POS (student’s MAIS curriculum).

THE MASTER PROJECT

The culmination of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program is the Master Project. An independent work carried out with faculty guidance, the Master Project demonstrates the ability to integrate materials from at least two fields of study. Typical examples of work that may be done include: 1) Original research in primary resources; 2) A synthesis of materials from several disciplines focused on a specific problem area; 3) Field-based study; or 4) An original creative work in the arts, music, or literature. Examples of specific Master Projects might be: the influence of science on public policy, drawing on materials in sociology, political science, and ethics; an examination of the aging process based upon psychology, history, and literature; or, the writing of a play that focuses upon life in rural Maine during the 19th century, integrating study in history, theater, and education. Projects will normally take a written form, though another medium may be approved for specific projects. Although not normally considered a thesis, projects in written form or the written portion of a project must adhere to the “Guidelines for Thesis and Dissertation Preparation,” which are available at www.umaine.edu/graduate, if the project is to be called a thesis. Three to six credits are awarded for completion of the Master Project (a thesis requires a minimum of six LIB 699 credits).

The student’s Advisory Committee is responsible for guiding the development of the Master Project. It must approve a written Master Project proposal before you begin work on the project. This proposal should include a statement of the purpose and methodology of the project, as well as a description of the final product; and it must be submitted to the student’s Advisory Committee at least one month prior to completion. Students will give an oral presentation on their Master Project when it is completed. The Advisory Committee, the MAIS Policy Review Committee, and other interested students and faculty will be invited to the oral presentation. Sufficient time must be allowed when planning the project’s oral defense, to allow for appropriate scheduling and deadlines.

Graduate students in the Interdisciplinary Studies program are also subject to the policies and regulations of the Graduate Faculty at the University of Maine. Copies of these Policies and Regulations are available at www.umaine.edu/graduate.

GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES

The University of Maine Graduate School Catalog contains a complete listing of courses which qualify for graduate level credit. As a Interdisciplinary Studies candidate, at least 15 credit hours of work must be 500 or 600 level courses. Core Seminars will fulfill a portion of this requirement. In addition, a limited number of 400 level course credits (typically no more than 6), may be included in the MAIS POS, with the approval of the Advisory Committee. No more than 2 Independent/Directed Readings courses should be included.

CORE SEMINARS

Two Core Seminars are required for the degree, one of them is mandatory to all students entering the program on or after Spring 2007: LIB 500 Exploring Interdisciplinarity. A third or fourth Core Seminar (LIB 500) may be used to fulfill the degree requirements, with the permission of the student’s Advisory Committee. The Core Seminars are interdisciplinary in their approach, and are usually taught by members of the graduate faculty. Most classes are small, 7-15 students, and are planned for late afternoon and evening hours and summer sessions. Core Seminars are offered on a rotating basis, with one or two scheduled each semester if possible. It is not necessary to begin the MAIS study with two Core Seminars, but taking one early in the program is advisable; additional seminars may be added later.

1 If the student wishes to include in the Advisory Committee an individual who does not belong to the University of Maine graduate faculty, a Record of Qualifications form filled out by the potential Advisory Committee member, needs to be submitted to the Graduate School for evaluation. This person however, cannot serve as the primary advisor.
EXAMPLES OF MAIS CORE SEMINARS

EXPLORING INTERDISCIPLINARITY
This course explores the meaning and methods of interdisciplinary studies. Through readings, written assignments, and discussion, we will consider the uses and limitations of interdisciplinary study. Throughout the semester we will also invite faculty members who are involved in interdisciplinary teaching and research to talk about their interdisciplinary experiences. * Instructor: Dr. Carol Toner, Maine Studies.

MYTHOLOGY & IDEOLOGY
This course serves two purposes. The first is to provide the student with a grounding in select mythologies from the ancient and contemporary world; the second purpose of the course is to use the example of mythology to illustrate the function of ideology within cultures, i.e., to illustrate how mythology functions within cultures to reinforce and transmit the ideals and truths important to those cultures. * Instructor: Dr. Kristina Passman, Modern Languages and Classics.

A SENSE OF PLACE: MAINE & REGIONAL IDENTITY
This interdisciplinary course explores Maine as a place with a unique identity. How does a sense of place shape Maine culture? We will examine images of Maine, from vacationland to impoverished rural backwoods, from quaint fishing villages to declining mill towns, from pristine wilderness to urban sprawl. What is the “real” Maine? Who and what is a Maine Yankee? Where and what is Down East? What does “Made in Maine” suggest? Drawing on poets, essayists, novelists and historians, we will explore and challenge these constructed images. Do such images reveal something essential about the state, or do they merely obscure the “real” Maine? * Instructor: Dr. Carol Toner, Maine Studies.

AMERICAN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
The course examines the history of science both “internally” – as ideas and experiments – and “externally” – as related to the society that has produced them and upon which they in turn have had impact. Similarly, the course examines the history of American technology both “internally” – as tools and machines – and “externally” – as related to the society which has produced them and upon which they in turn have had impact. * Instructor: Dr. Howard Segal, History Department.

WOMEN & GLOBALIZATION
Constraints of geography on social and cultural arrangements are receding, a process with implications for the world’s women. Topics investigated will include women’s work in factories such as the maquiladores, immigration, domestic work, and sex tourism to name a few. * Instructor: Dr. Mazie Hough, Women’s Studies

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Consideration for admission to the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program is open to applicants holding a bachelor’s or graduate degree from an accredited college or university. A strong academic record (i.e., 3.00 GPA) is expected. Because of the unique nature of the program in serving the nontraditional student who has been out of school for a lengthy period, Graduate Record Examinations and similar testing procedures are not required for admission. In the absence of a formal entrance examination, the MAIS admissions committee reviews transcripts and other materials and considers both, potential for success within the program and whether a student will make a positive contribution to it. The MAIS application essay is weighed heavily in the admission process. Prior to making application to the Interdisciplinary Studies program, students must contact the Graduate School to arrange an interview to discuss interests and academic goals. After the interview, applicants whose academic goals are consistent with the mission of the MAIS program will have to ensure that the Graduate School receives the following materials:

1) An e-mail to graduate@maine.edu from a faculty member at the University of Maine who has agreed to serve as the primary advisor.
2) Two letters of recommendation. Students are strongly encouraged to use the online letter of recommendation feature within the online application or have recommenders send an electronic copy to graduate@maine.edu.
3) Official college/university transcripts from all institutions attended.
4) Application for graduate degree. The online application feature allows applicants to include an essay which presents student’s life experiences as well as objectives and reasons for applying to the program.
5) Online application fee of $65.00.

Admission is contingent upon the positive vote of the majority of the members of the Interdisciplinary Studies Policy Review Committee.

NON-DEGREE APPLICATION
Students who prefer to take some preliminary coursework before making formal application or who do not meet all the admission requirements, may enroll as a non-degree student and apply for regular admission after completing two appropriate graduate courses with a grade of B or better in each course.
TRANSFER CREDIT
Students initiating their studies as non-degree students should be advised that normally only six hours of graduate non-degree credit may be granted (with the approval of the student’s advisory committee) for work done at the University prior to admission, if students were post-baccalaureate at the time of registration. A maximum of six hours in transfer credits from other institutions is also acceptable upon appropriate approval.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT
The MAIS is an interdisciplinary degree, which means that although classes to fulfill curriculum (POS) requirements will be taken in different departments, as a student you are not enrolled within any of the graduate programs sponsored by the department. This disables you to be eligible for graduate assistantships, since those positions are allocated to within-the-discipline departments.

MAIS students’ option to find financial support is to file a FASFA form on time (March 1st) and based on need, a student might be eligible to have Federal Work-Study moneys. If however, a student fails to file a FASFA form by the deadline, the only available option is to apply through the office of Financial Aid for a Stafford Loan.

APPLICATION DEADLINES
The deadline dates for submission of complete applications for the MAIS program to ensure appropriate review time are as follows:

Fall/Summer Semester...............................................................................................................................................................First Monday in April
Spring Semester................................................................................................................................................................First Monday in November

GRADUATE FACILITIES AND RESOURCES
The University of Maine is both a resident and non-resident campus. The University of Maine, unlike a strictly Liberal Arts College or University, gives students access to Graduate Faculty specializing in the natural and social sciences and in several technical disciplines, as well as in the arts and humanities. Several institutes and research centers provide additional resources. Research facilities include the Raymond H. Fogler Library, the Computing Center, the University Art Collection, and collections in anthropology and folklore. The Fogler Library contains more than 960,000 books and pamphlets and receives some 6,700 periodicals. Networked computer clusters are available in the Student Union and Fogler Library as well as in the Graduate Student Center in Stodder Hall. The University’s Art Collection and Gallery contains 4,000 works as well as more than 10,000 photographs and color reproductions and 35,000 slides of art masterpieces which are available for study. There are also extensive collections in the Hudson Museum and in the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History.

Application Process Checklist

- Meet/phone conversation with Graduate School representative (contact 207-581-3221) or with specific program coordinator (see p. 1) (must be done before applying)
- Fill out online application
- Have official transcripts of prior degree(s) be sent to the Graduate School, 42 Stodder Hall, Orono ME 04469.
- Pay application fee. (Call 207-581-3291)
- Identify UMaine faculty advisor and have him/her e-mail: graduate@maine.edu indicating his/her willingness to serve as advisor
- Two letters of recommendation
- Draft of Program of Study (POS). Submit to: graduate@maine.edu

In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and in pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University of Maine System shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or citizenship status, age, disability, or veterans status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Questions and complaints about discrimination in any area of the University should be directed to Karen Kemble, Director of Equal Opportunity, The University of Maine, Room 101, 5754 North Stevens Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5754, telephone (207) 581-1226 (voice and TDD).