



## **Interdisciplinary Degree Regulations**

The Interdisciplinary Degree allows a qualified graduate student to pursue thesis-based research (Master's, PhD) in an area that does not fit the traditional disciplinary requirements of only one graduate program. The requirements for the student's program are individually tailored to meet his/her research interests. Research is carried out under the direction and guidance of a Supervisor, Co-Supervisor and Supervisory Committee whose research expertise is relevant to the disciplinary areas. The student should submit an application form and fee, along with official transcripts and letters of reference to the intended home graduate program. The application must meet the minimum Faculty of Graduate Studies requirements for admission. The prospective home program will work with the conjoint program to establish coursework and candidacy examination requirements. Parchments for the Interdisciplinary Degree will identify both the home and conjoint programs. Contact the prospective home graduate program for further details.

### **Application and Admission**

- The initial impetus for an interdisciplinary degree program must come from the student who shall apply in writing to the home program, with a copy to the conjoint program. Such applications must come:
  - prior to the first registration as a graduate student, or
  - at least six months prior to the candidacy examination for a PhD student, or
  - within the first six months of study for a Master's student.
- Applications must include:
  - Application form and application fee,
  - Updated official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions,
  - Two letters of reference,
  - Abstract of research proposal and rationale for interdisciplinary research,
  - Both programs' endorsement of the rationale for the degree being interdisciplinary,
  - Acknowledgement of Supervisor and Co-supervisor who meet the requirements of Supervision outlined in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Supervision Policy. Programs may opt to have one Supervisor and will include a memo to the Faculty of Graduate Studies explaining their choice,
  - Acknowledgements that the student may be required to satisfy all components of both programs, unless specified otherwise,
  - Detailed arrangements for funding the student as outlined in the Faculty of Graduate Supervisory Policy.
- All interdisciplinary programs must be approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. An application to the Dean must be made by the home program, endorsed by the conjoint program, and shall include all the information outlined above. The Dean's approval must be available before a Master's student can proceed to second registration or a doctoral student to candidacy.
- Students doing interdisciplinary degrees shall be registered in the home graduate program.
- The home program will be responsible for handling all matters of administration. The home program will be responsible for ensuring that office space and all necessary facilities, e.g., computer, labs, etc., are provided.
- All other Faculty of Graduate Studies regulations and deadlines will apply.

## Supervisory Arrangements

- All faculty policies and regulations concerning the roles and responsibilities of Supervisors and co-supervisors will apply.
- The home program will provide the Supervisor.
- The Supervisory Committee for Doctoral and Master's students will consist of the Supervisor (home program), the Co-Supervisor (conjoint program, unless specified otherwise) and at least two other members.
- In the case of a doctoral student, the examining committee for the candidacy examination must consist of:
  - the Supervisory Committee
  - one member from each of the home and conjoint program
  - one internal/external examiner as defined by the program (if applicable)
- In the case of a Doctoral student, the final oral examination committee must consist of:
  - the Supervisory Committee
  - one member from neither the home nor conjoint program
  - one member external to the university
- In the case of a Master's student, the examining committee must consist of:
  - the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if applicable)
  - one member from each of the home and conjoint programs
  - one member from neither the home nor conjoint program
- The Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if applicable) must agree as to the external examiner for the Doctoral Oral Thesis Examination.

## The Degree

- An individual interdisciplinary thesis degree may be done only between thesis Master's or Doctoral programs. Qualifying students are not eligible.
- The home graduate program will give one discipline to the degree, e.g., if the home program is History, the degree will be in "History and ...."
- The graduate program of the Co-supervisor (if applicable) will be designated the conjoint program. It will provide the second designation on the degree. For example, following the illustration above, if the conjoint program is Political Science, the degree will be in "History and Political Science."

## Program Transfers

- A student may request transfer from an Interdisciplinary Degree program upon application to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies on a *Change of Registration or Status* form. The form must be signed and accompanied by an explanation.

## Scholarships

- In the case of scholarships that are restricted to students in a particular program, interdisciplinary students would be eligible to apply for such restricted scholarships in both home and conjoint programs.