MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (M.S.I.S.), MAJOR IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Major Program
Sustainability Studies
The degree is specifically designed to prepare committed leaders to address emerging sustainability issues. Students completing the program will have the technical skills to formulate and solve problems at the appropriate scale, as well as the breadth of vision to recognize the interconnectedness and complexity of human-environment systems. Graduates will be prepared for admission into strong doctoral programs or professional schools, and important positions in the growing field of sustainability-related careers within local, state, or federal government, regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations, consulting firms and within relevant industries. The program is available to graduate students seeking a more diversified program of study than is generally available for students specializing in a single discipline. The program is open to any qualified graduate student, and is particularly relevant for those wishing to improve their subject matter competence in more than one discipline. The M.S.I.S. degree is best suited to students wishing to focus more on the natural sciences. The program is tailored to accommodate both full-time and part-time graduate students.

Admission Policy
For information regarding admission application requirements and deadlines, please visit The Graduate College website at http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/sust.html.

Degree Requirements
Non-thesis Option
Entry Module Course Work
Choose 6 hours of Graduate Advisor Approved Electives, preferably in methodology
Academic Module Course Work
Choose 27 hours of Graduate Advisor Approved Electives
Exit Module Course Work
Choose 6 hours of Graduate Advisor Approved Electives

Total Hours 39

Thesis Option
Entry Module Course Work
Choose 6 hours of Graduate Advisor Approved Electives, preferably in methodology
Academic Module Course Work
Choose 27 hours of Graduate Advisor Approved Electives
Thesis Course Work
Choose a minimum of 6 hours

If a student elects to follow the thesis option for the degree, a committee to direct the written thesis will be established. The thesis must demonstrate the student’s capability for research and independent thought. Preparation of the thesis must be in conformity with the Graduate College Guide to Preparing and Submitting a Thesis or Dissertation. The thesis handbook may be accessed at http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/docs/Thesis_Diss_Guide.pdf.

Thesis Proposal
The student must submit an official Master’s Thesis Proposal form to their thesis committee. The required thesis proposal form may be obtained from The Graduate College at http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/gcforms.html. After signing the form and obtaining committee members’ signatures, graduate advisor’s signature (if required by the program), and the department chair’s signature, the student must submit the thesis proposal form with one copy of the proposal attached to the dean of The Graduate College for approval before proceeding with research on the thesis. If the thesis research involves human subjects, the student must obtain exemption or approval from the Texas State Institutional Review Board prior to submitting the proposal form to The Graduate College. If the thesis research involves vertebrate animals, the proposal form must include the Texas State IACUC approval code. It is recommended the thesis proposal form be submitted to the dean of The Graduate College by the end of the student’s enrollment in 5399A.

Thesis Committee
The thesis committee must be composed of a minimum of three approved graduate faculty members.

Thesis Enrollment and Credit
The completion of a minimum of six hours of thesis enrollment is required. Enrollment for the thesis will be in course number 5399A for a student’s initial thesis enrollment and a thesis B course for each subsequent thesis enrollment in the field in which the subject matter of the thesis falls, e.g., ENG 5399A, ENG 5199B, ENG 5299B, ENG 5399B, ENG 5599B, and ENG 5999B. Preliminary discussions regarding the selection of a topic and assignment to a research supervisor will not require enrollment for the thesis course.

A student will be required to enroll in and pay the fee for at least one hour of the thesis course during any term in which the student will receive thesis supervision or guidance and/or in which the student is using university resources. Failure to register for the thesis course during a term in which supervision is received may result in postponement of graduation. After initial enrollment in 5399A, the student will continue to enroll in a thesis B course as long as it takes to complete the thesis. In the rare case when a student has not previously enrolled in thesis and plans to work on and complete the thesis in one term, the student will enroll in both 5399A and 5399B. The only grades assigned for thesis
courses are PR (progress), CR (credit), W (withdrew), and F (failing). If acceptable progress is not being made in a thesis course, the instructor may issue a grade of F. If the student is making acceptable progress, a grade of PR is assigned until the thesis is completed. The minimum number of hours of thesis credit ("CR") will be awarded only after the thesis is filed in the Alkek Library and the librarian has electronically returned the thesis card to the office of The Graduate College.

A student who has selected the thesis option must be registered for the thesis course during the term or Summer I (during summer the thesis course runs ten weeks for both sessions) in which the degree will be conferred.

Fee Reduction
A master's degree candidate for graduation may be eligible for a one-time fee reduction under V.T.C.A. Education Code, Section 54.054. Please refer to the section titled Fee Reduction in the Additional Fees and Expenses chapter of this catalog for more information.

Thesis Deadlines and Approval Process
Thesis deadlines are posted at the following web page: http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Thes-Diss_Info/T-D_Deadlines.html. The completed thesis must be submitted to the chair of the thesis committee no later than 41 days before the date of the commencement at which the degree is to be conferred.

The following must be submitted to the office of The Graduate College no later than 24 days, not counting weekends or holidays, before the date of commencement at which the degree is to be conferred (see The Graduate College webpage for specific deadlines):

1. The Thesis/Dissertation Committee Approval form bearing original signatures of the student and all committee members.
2. One (1) copy of the thesis in final form, approved by all committee members, on standard paper (Hard-copy Submission Option) or PDF of the thesis in final form, approved by all committee members, uploaded in the on-line Vireo submission system (Vireo On-line Submission Option).

After the dean of The Graduate College approves the thesis, the process is as follows:

1. For the Vireo On-line Submission Option:
   a. No copies are required to be submitted to the Alkek Library. However, Alkek will bind copies submitted that the student wants bound for personal use. Personal copies are not required to be printed on archival quality paper. The student will take the personal copies to the Alkek Library and pay the binding fee for personal copies.

Master’s level courses in Interdisciplinary Studies: IDS

Courses Offered
Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS)
IDS 5191. Seminar in Interdisciplinary Studies.
This course offers an in-depth study of two or more topics or emerging issues examined from an interdisciplinary perspective. Course may be repeated with a different emphasis.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
about Seminar in Interdisciplinary Studies

IDS 5198. Independent Interdisciplinary Research.
This course involves individual work with specific guidance from graduate faculty. Work may include participation in research, professional practice, and/or critical review of the related literature. Course may be repeated once for credit when topics vary.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
about Independent Interdisciplinary Research

IDS 5199B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
about Thesis

IDS 5291. Seminar in Interdisciplinary Studies.
This course offers an in-depth study of two or more topics or emerging issues examined from an interdisciplinary perspective. Course may be repeated with a different emphasis.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Seminar in Interdisciplinary Studies

IDS 5298. Independent Interdisciplinary Research.
This course involves individual work with specific guidance from graduate faculty. Work may include participation in research, professional practice, and/or critical review of the related literature. Course may be repeated once for credit when topics vary.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Independent Interdisciplinary Research

IDS 5299B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.
IDS 5391. Seminar in Interdisciplinary Studies.
This course offers an in-depth study of two or more topics or emerging issues examined from an interdisciplinary perspective. Course may be repeated with a different emphasis.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

IDS 5398. Independent Interdisciplinary Research.
This course involves individual work with specific guidance from graduate faculty. Work may include participation in research, professional practice, and/or critical review of the related literature. Course may be repeated once for credit when topics vary.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

IDS 5399A. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s initial thesis enrollment. No thesis credit is awarded until student has completed the thesis in IDS 5399B.
Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

IDS 5399B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

IDS 5599B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

IDS 5999B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding. Graded on a credit (CR), progress (PR), no-credit (F) basis.

9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit