

Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies The University of Alabama

Is the Ph.D. in IDS the right fit for you?

1. Have you explored all the current 46 doctoral programs offered at The University of Alabama and concluded that none of these programs meet your professional goals?
2. Are you a self-motivated, independent student who can set your own goals and develop a plan to follow through with them?
3. Do your professional goals require you to cross the boundaries of traditional disciplines?
4. Are you able to work well with faculty from diverse disciplines who often have very different perspectives?
5. Do you have a master's degree from an accredited university? Do you have at least a 3.3 or higher in your master's degree coursework?
6. Have you taken the GRE or MAT and scored at the 50th percentile or higher?

If you answered “yes” to all of the above questions, keep reading.

Prerequisites for Admission

Due to the demands and rigor of the Interdisciplinary Studies Ph.D. program, only students who demonstrate a high degree of self-reliance and responsibility will be considered for admission. Prior to submitting an application for the Interdisciplinary Studies Program, each prospective candidate must meet with the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School. Additionally, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed a master's degree or its equivalent at an accredited university.
2. The student must normally have a graduate GPA of 3.3 or higher, on a 4.0 scale, in their masters degree (or equivalent) and scored at the 50 percentile or better on an appropriate entrance examination (e.g., GRE, GMAT, MAT). If the student has less than a 3.3 cumulative graduate GPA, the entrance exam score must be exceptional. Interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs are not available to students who have been unsuccessful in previous graduate work.

Admission Procedures

An applicant must submit to the Graduate School the following materials:

- (a) Completed application form and application fee
- (b) Official transcripts from all colleges and universities that the student has attended
- (c) Proof of an earned master's degree
- (d) Three letters of recommendation
- (e) The results of a standardized test score
- (f) A statement of purpose that includes reasons for pursuing the Interdisciplinary Studies Ph.D. and career goals
- (g) A resume

Before admission, these additional materials must be submitted by an applicant in consultation with his/her Advisory chair. These additional materials should be submitted to Dr. Natalie Adams, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School:

1. A Program of Study signed by all members of the Advisory Committee (see Course of Study for more information). A copy of the Outline of Ph.D. Program can be found at <http://www.graduate.ua.edu/academics/forms/index.html>
2. A one- to two-page prospectus outlining the intended focus of research and the significance of the research to your intended field(s) of study and your own professional goals. The prospectus must be signed by your Committee Chair.
3. A brief statement prepared by the Committee chair. The statement describes the uniqueness of the proposed program and states how no existing doctoral program at The University of Alabama meets the requirements and interests of the applicant. The chair of the proposed Advisory Committee is encouraged to consult with the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School before the application is considered by the Graduate School
4. An explanation of how each of the following Graduate School requirements will be met during the program:
 - * Transfer of credit (Include a list of all courses the Graduate School will be asked to accept)
 - * Residency requirements (Denote the two contiguous, full-time semesters and the courses to be taken)
 - * Time limits (see Graduate Catalog)
 - * Comprehensive examination (must be a rigorous and use the same general procedures as the doctoral exams in the departments in which coursework is taken)
 - * Admission to candidacy (see Graduate Catalog)
 - * Continuous registration (see Graduate Catalog)

5. A tentative timeline for completion of coursework and dissertation

These materials must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School before the student is admitted to the program.

Admissions Materials Check-list

- _____ 1. Completed application form and application fee
- _____ 2. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities you have attended
- _____ 3. Proof of an earned master's degree
- _____ 4. Three letters of recommendation
- _____ 5. Entrance exam score
- _____ 6. A resume
- _____ 7. Statement of purpose that includes reasons for pursuing the Interdisciplinary Studies Ph.D. and career goals (be sure to include why current doctoral programs don't meet your needs)
- _____ 8. A Program of Study signed by all members of your Advisory Committee. A copy of the POS can be found at <http://www.graduate.ua.edu/academics/forms/index.html>
- _____ 9. A one-to-two page prospectus outlining the intended focus of research and the significance of the research to your intended field(s) of study and your own professional goals **signed by your Committee Chair**
- _____ 10. A brief statement prepared by the Committee chair. The statement describes the uniqueness of the proposed program and states how no existing doctoral program at The University of Alabama meets the requirements and interests of the applicant and assures the Graduate School that he/she is willing to mentor you through the dissertation process.
- _____ 11. An explanation of how each of the following Graduate School requirements will be met during the program:
 - * Transfer of credit (Include a list of all courses the Graduate School will be asked to accept)
 - * Residency requirements (Denote the two contiguous, full-time semesters and the courses to be taken)
 - * Time limits (see Graduate Catalog)
 - * Comprehensive examination (must be a rigorous and use the same general procedures as the doctoral exams in the departments in which coursework is taken)
 - * Admission to candidacy (see Graduate Catalog)
 - * Continuous registration (see Graduate Catalog)
- _____ 12. A tentative timeline for completion of coursework and dissertation