INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
WITH A CONCENTRATION IN OCCUPATIONAL,
WORKFORCE, AND LEADERSHIP STUDIES

“From the first moment I met with the Occupational, Workforce, and Leadership Studies, I knew that I had stumbled upon an incredible opportunity. The professional and caring advisors were able to craft a meaningful, personalized master of science in interdisciplinary studies degree program that met both my personal and professional goals. My time at Texas State was incredibly rewarding and has provided more stable footing for me as an officer and a leader.”

— Laura Falardeau, MAJOR, U.S. AIR FORCE

A degree plan tailored to your own skills and goals is available from the Department of Occupational, Workforce, and Leadership Studies at Texas State University. The master of science in interdisciplinary studies or master of arts in interdisciplinary studies is a customized degree for students who have established their career objectives in business, industry, nonprofit agencies or government. The degree also serves those who are in specialized areas not served by other degree programs.

This unique hybrid and online program offers courses from four or more academic disciplines, providing students with a variety of intellectual viewpoints. Students can choose from courses in philosophy, political science, education, mass communication or other academic disciplines along with occupational education and career and technical education.

Course schedules are flexible to accommodate the needs of working professionals, and courses are offered on campus in San Marcos, at the Round Rock Campus north of Austin or online. The online option allows students to complete courses from home and study whenever and wherever it is convenient. Many hybrid classes allow students to complete work online and attend face-to-face class meetings three times a semester. This format provides an opportunity for personal and professional interaction.
Degree Plan

Students work with the graduate advisor to create a highly specialized and individualized plan directed toward their goals. The degree plan includes three modules totaling 39 credit hours:

- entry module (nine hours) emphasizes communication and interpersonal relations skills
- academic module (21 hours) emphasizes courses relating to overall career direction and personal growth
- exit module (nine hours) students have an option of choosing from two exit modules:
  - Exit Module 1: emphasizes applied research, which is tailored to each student's interests
  - Exit Module 2: requires the completion of a professional practicum sequence, which includes a course on understanding research, a course on reflective inquiry and a practicum course

Both of the exit module options should be discussed with a graduate advisor in the first semester of enrollment.

Students must take courses from at least three different academic colleges and four departments at Texas State. Students may take up to 15 hours in a single department or discipline. Classes are available on a flexible basis. Required courses for the degree are available as online courses only. Other courses selected are available online, hybrid, in San Marcos or in Round Rock.

Students must pass both the written and oral exit examinations prior to receiving their degrees.

Areas of Concentration

Students may select a number of areas of study, which may include:

- understanding human systems and critical thinking in the workplace
- assessment of organizational needs, the development of remediation strategies and programs that enhance human performance
- high-performance leadership, motivation and styles of management
- correct use of human resources through identifying occupational aptitude, job placement and follow-up
- interpretation and application of workforce trends, occupational surveys and the dynamics of career choice
- skills and attitudes related to the supervision of personnel

Online Classes

The majority of this program may be offered exclusively online. For students residing outside of Texas and not planning on relocating to the state, please visit owls.txstate.edu before applying. Please consult with the graduate advisor on current and future scheduling of online courses. Using online courses available in various university departments, it is possible to complete this degree 100 percent online.

Admission Policy

Students with a GPA of 2.75 or higher on the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work earned at a four-year college or university leading to the bachelor’s degree are eligible for admission review. No Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score is required if the student’s GPA meets this requirement.

Each applicant must submit the following to The Graduate College:

- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each four-year college or university attended
- a one-page statement of purpose outlining future direction

Each applicant will have the opportunity to visit with a graduate advisor in person or through electronic media.

If the student’s GPA is below 2.75 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work leading to the bachelor’s degree, the student must submit a GRE score. See www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/oced.html for details about GRE requirements. In addition, the applicant must schedule an interview with the graduate advisor in person or through electronic media.

A special course, Interdisciplinary Studies in OWLS, has been created to assist graduate students in the department and should be taken during the first semester of graduate work. This course orients the student to the fields associated with this interdisciplinary area of study and to the conventions of graduate-level study and research.

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to the ApplyTexas website, application information and additional details. Applications must be submitted by June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester, April 15 for the summer I semester and June 1 for the summer II semester. International deadlines are earlier and are posted on our website. Be sure to select Interdisciplinary Studies with a Concentration in Occupational, Workforce, and Leadership Studies as your program.

Financial Assistance

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that the fall semester program admission priority deadline of February 15 must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact

Advising is available online, at the Round Rock Campus and on campus in San Marcos.

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