Texas State University offers an interdisciplinary program leading to a master of arts (MAIS) or master of science (MSIS) in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in sustainability. The degree is designed to educate and prepare committed leaders with the skills necessary to address emerging sustainability issues. Students completing the interdisciplinary studies program with this concentration will have the technical skills to formulate concepts 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 as well as important positions in the growing field of sustainability-related careers in local, state or federal government, regulatory agencies, nongovernmental organizations, consulting firms and relevant industries.

The interdisciplinary studies program with a concentration in sustainability is available to graduate students seeking a more diversified program of study than generally is 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 sustainability concentration within the interdisciplinary studies program is led by a team of faculty from across the campus who offer courses related to sustainability in their home departments and mentor students to help them build the best individualized program for their career and learning goals.

Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Course Work
The MAIS degree is best suited to students interested more in social sciences, business, humanities and planning, while the MSIS degree is best suited to students wishing to focus more on the natural sciences.

Those electing to pursue the MAIS/MSIS degree are required to take courses from at least three colleges and four departments, including a minimum of 15 hours of course work from a “home” department, and at least six hours of course work from three other departments. The interdisciplinary studies degree requires a total of 39 graduate semester hours, and allows students to design their course of study to meet their academic or professional interests and needs. The program is tailored to accommodate both full-time and part-time graduate students.

Thesis and non-thesis options are available, with a comprehensive examination required for both options. Students choosing the thesis option will take six hours of thesis. Those choosing the non-thesis option will take a three-hour course in which they will develop a professional paper on a topic agreed to by the student’s committee, and will take three additional elective hours to fulfill the 39 graduate semester hours required for the degree.

Faculty
Faculty come from the colleges of Applied Arts, McCoy College of Business Administration, Liberal Arts, and Science and Engineering, and represent a diversity of disciplines including agriculture, biology, family and consumer sciences, finance and economics, geography, management, occupational education, philosophy, political science, social work and sociology. The faculty members are renowned researchers in their fields, award-winning teachers, and leaders in professional societies within their disciplines.

Admission Policy
Regular degree-seeking admission may be granted if an applicant has a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale, calculated on:

- the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate course work earned at a four-year college or university before the bachelor's degree, or
- the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work before the bachelor's degree plus any graduate course work earned at a four-year college or university taken at an accredited college or university.

Each applicant must submit to the Graduate College:
- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each four-year college or university attended
- Intent-to-Mentor statement from a faculty member who will serve as the student’s research advisor and chair of the master’s committee
- statement of purpose in pursuing the MAIS or MSIS degree

If the GPA is less than 2.75, official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is needed. See www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/sust for details about the GRE requirement.

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, where to submit application documents and details.

Applications must be submitted by June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester, and May 15 for the summer I and summer II semesters. International deadlines are earlier and are posted on our website.

Financial Assistance
Scholarships and assistantships are available to qualified applicants on a competitive basis. For information about scholarships and financial aid, visit the Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education.

Assistantships are available to qualified full-time graduate students on a competitive basis. Applicants should contact the faculty member agreeing to serve as their mentor to discuss availability of assistantships. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
Dr. Patti Giuffre
Director of Graduate Programs
Department of Sociology
UAC 449-A
Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666-4684
Phone: 512.245.8983
E-mail: SustainableMasters@txstate.edu