The Faculty of Graduate Studies allows students with a proven track record the special opportunity of registering in Individual Interdisciplinary Studies (IIS). IIS combines substantial aspects of existing discipline-based programs of at least two units into a unique syllabus which lies outside the traditional disciplinary boundaries. Since an IIS program places additional demands and responsibilities upon the student to assemble a committee, to formulate a research proposal in advance of admission and to negotiate a program of study with his/ her committee, the eligibility requirements are more stringent than those for strictly discipline-based graduate programs.

The regulations presented below and all general regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (e.g., admission requirements, registration procedures, thesis regulations, minimum course requirements, advance and transfer credit, time limits, requirements for graduation, oral examinations, academic performance and the like) apply to IIS.

Each unit currently offering a discipline-based graduate level program is eligible to offer an IIS program, as long as the subject area of that unit is the major focus of the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies program and the unit offers the level of degree being pursued, i.e., Master's or Ph.D.. Exceptions to this requirement may be considered, upon approval by the Associate Dean and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The unit is thus considered the "home" unit of the IIS student, but all IIS students are governed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies IIS supplemental regulations. Because of the individuality of each program and the need for special guidance, an Advisory Committee is required for all IIS students at the time of admission.

The "home" Unit Head (or designate) will ensure that the student and the advisor receive information regarding scholarships and relevant Faculty procedures and the like (i.e., information that would normally be distributed to Unit heads and/or Chairs of graduate programs). The Faculty of Graduate Studies will ensure that the student meets the program requirements for the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies program. Please review the supplemental regulations for more detailed program requirements at http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies/admin/supplemental_regulations.html.

Duties of the Advisory Committee

- Upon acceptance into the program, the advisory committee shall meet with the student to discuss the research statement, to plan and approve the program of study, including selection and scheduling of required courses, and to decide upon language tests (if appropriate).

- The advisory committee, as a whole, shall meet a least once a year with the student and submit to the Faculty of Graduate Studies Office a Progress Report by June 1; failure to submit a timely report will prevent the student from registering in the next session.

- The advisor shall submit reports on changes in student status or in the student's program whenever they occur (i.e., will report on examination performances, necessary changes in committee structure or program, and the like).

Duties of the IIS Master's Student

- There is no comprehensive examination route in the IIS Master's program. All IIS Master's students must complete a thesis.

- The Master's program in IIS requires the completion of a minimum of 12 credit hours of coursework at the 7000 level, with a maximum of 24 credit hours. All IIS Master's students must complete at least one 3 credit hour course in each of the units represented on their advisory committee. (If there are no 7000 level courses available in a unit, a 7000 level course may be substituted from another department, upon the recommendation of the advisory committee).

- No later than 12 months after the commencement of the program, the student must submit a complete program of study to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

- Once the coursework has been completed, students must submit a thesis proposal. The thesis proposal must be formally approved by the student's advisor, advisory committee, and submitted to the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Duties of the IIS Doctoral Student

- Within 12 months of admission to the doctoral program (24 months for part-time students) the student must submit a complete program of study, including anticipated timelines, and details of the candidacy examination format to be used, to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for approval.

- All IIS doctoral students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours of course work at the 7000 level, with a maximum of 24 credit hours. Courses taken in addition to the 12 credit hours required at the 7000 level must be at the 3000 level or higher. All IIS doctoral students must complete at least one 3 credit hour course in each of the units represented on their advisory committee.

- The candidacy examination must be successfully completed within six months of the completion of the student's course work (12 months in the case of part-time students) and should be completed no later than the end of the second year of study (third year of study in the case of part-time students). Details of the Candidacy examination format to be used must be submitted to the Associate Dean for the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies program for approval at least six months before the anticipated date of the candidacy exam.

  › The candidacy examination may follow the format of the candidacy examinations in the adviser's home unit or the format used in any of the departments represented on the student's committee. However, this is not a requirement and the advisory committee may develop a candidacy examination format, which, in their opinion, best reflects the unique needs of the student, as long as this is consistent with the standards of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

  › In all cases, the candidacy examination should reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the students program of study and should not be structured on disciplinary lines. The proposed format must be acceptable to the Associate Dean of the IIS program and to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

  › After completion of the candidacy examination, the student's advisory committee shall meet in camera to assess the student's performance. This assessment shall be on a Pass/Fail basis. Unanimous approval is required to achieve a pass. In the event of a failure, a fresh candidacy examination process shall be initiated. This process must be completed with three months of the initial failure. A second failure shall result in a recommendation to the Faculty of Graduate Studies that the student be required to withdraw.

- Within six months of the completion of the candidacy examination the student must submit a detailed research proposal of no less than 3000 words, excluding tables, references, etc., to their advisory committee. The research proposal must be approved by the advisory committee and must be presented and defended in a public forum within one of the departments represented on the student's committee.

  › The members of the student's committee must be in attendance. The student shall present their proposal for approx. 20 minutes and will be questioned by their advisory committee and, time permitting, by members of the audience. The duration of the proposal defense may not exceed 90 minutes. Approval of the proposal by the advisory committee must be unanimous.

  › In the event of the proposal not receiving approval, the student will be given three months from the date of the proposal rejection to develop, submit and defend a revised proposal. In the event of a second failure to have the proposal approved, a recommendation that the student be required to withdraw shall be submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

- All students in the IIS Doctoral program are required to present at least one seminar in a seminar series hosted by at least two of the departments represented on their committee. (The presentation of a seminar in the seminar series of Unit A and the presentation of a seminar in the seminar series of Unit B, where Units A and B are both represented on the student's committee, would satisfy this requirement). The student's advisor shall notify the Director of the IIS program of the time, location and topic of the student's seminars.

- All students in the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies doctoral program are encouraged to successfully complete the University of Manitoba's Certificate in Higher Education Teaching prior to graduation.

Approved by Faculty Council: April, 2010