



Dear Student,

As a student in the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program, you are to complete a mid-point essay when you have completed 15-18 hours in the program. This requirement is necessary in order to be considered as making progress toward the degree. When writing your essay, please follow the following guidelines. We look forward to reading your mid-point essay.

~ Dr. Heather Steinmann, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies

The Mid-Point Self-Reflection Essay, required as part of progress toward graduation

This Mid-Point Self-Reflection Essay should be submitted once you have completed approximately 15 hours and should be sent electronically to interdisciplinary@wnmu.edu. If not completed when you have 21 completed graduate hours, a hold may be placed on your account. This mid-point, self-reflection essay will be assessed on a completed, meets request as outlined/not completed basis by the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, in consultation with programmatic faculty when appropriate. This essay should meet the following guidelines:

- is 5 pages minimum, 10 pages maximum, double-spaced
- uses 1” margins, 12-point, professional font and page numbers
- has no unnecessary, extra spacing (use paragraph indentations rather than blank lines between paragraphs)
- is saved as either a Microsoft word or pdf document
- shows a clear understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of your degree
- exhibits graduate-level writing and sophistication of ideas and expression
- includes a plan of study as an appendix in the same document (does not count toward page count)

Be sure to thoroughly address the following issues **using the bolded section headings** shown here:

1. **Student Contact & Concentration Information:** Include your name, mailing address(es), phone number(s) and email address(es), and concentrations with intended hours to be completed in each area.
2. **Courses taken in the MA program to date:** You should describe courses you have taken, organized by concentration area (each course listed should appear on your degree plan. All courses should be listed by course prefix, number, and title, for example, SOC 540: Sociology of Education. You should also include a brief summary about the focus of each course from your perspective. Do not copy content from our catalog or your coursework. Provide comprehensive information that captures what you uniquely focused on in each course—was there a special assignment that was meaningful to you in some way? Write more about what *you* did in each course rather than hear a description of what the professor did or offered. Two short but solid paragraphs per course should easily “write themselves” in this section.
3. **Interdisciplinary Reflection:** Reflect on how your concentration areas are connecting for you in an interdisciplinary manner, with illustration of such connections using several of the courses you have taken up to this point. For example, if you are studying Writing and Psychology, how do these concentrations come together for you? Explain the connections you see and how these might contribute to your professional work. You could write about how your course selection in one discipline was affected by your learning and growth in the other discipline(s). Please use this opportunity to make connections between your disciplines. Consider how learning in one area has really impacted your learning in the other area(s). As this is an interdisciplinary degree, you should have considerable focus in this section, with the length of this section being no less than two pages (but this is a low minimum – two pages should be easy to produce).
4. **Future Courses with Rationale:** Please list the courses you intend to take to complete your degree, again organized by the concentration area, with brief explanation of your choices. This list does not represent a commitment to courses, but rather a rough sketch of your future in the program. This section doesn’t need to be very long, just give a brief glimpse of things right now. You must complete and include a degree plan as an appendix. Make sure that your list in this section matches the degree plan. Please note that no signatures are required on the degree plan at this time. To consider future courses, consult your concentration advisors or their departments’ web pages.
5. **Interest in the Program:** Please describe your continued interest in this interdisciplinary degree program and how it suits your educational, professional, and personal goals. Focus on the degree itself, rather than your concentration areas here. Note that this is something you articulated as part of your entrance requirement. Revisit what you wrote at that time and address how your goals have remained the same or changed since that time.

Now that you are at the mid-point in your MA degree, **graduation** is fast-approaching. Please remember that your *online* application for graduation is due to the Registrar well before your actual commencement date. As part of the graduation requirements, you must complete an interdisciplinary exit with our program. All coursework and all exits must be completed before the end of the term in which you want to graduate. Exits take some time to read, so get those in to our office at least 3-4 weeks before the end of the term.

Graduation Date	When Application is due
Spring, May	Due September 1 st
Summer, August	Due Feb 1 st
Fall, December	Due June 1 st