



Dear Student,

In addition to requirements for your concentration areas the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies requires that you complete an Interdisciplinary Exit Essay, addressing the connections between your concentrations. The intention of this requirement is to help you reflect on the meaningful connections you made between your fields of study, as well as to your personal or professional life. I hope you find the exercise serves you well as a capstone experience.

~ Dr. Heather Steinmann, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies

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## The Interdisciplinary Exit Essay, a Graduation Requirement for the MA in Interdisciplinary Studies

This Interdisciplinary Exit Essay must be completed in the semester in which you intend to graduate, or within one year of completing all of the requirements for the degree, and should be emailed to [interdisciplinary@wnmu.edu](mailto:interdisciplinary@wnmu.edu). This project 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 formatting guidelines:

- is 10 pages minimum , 15 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 one Microsoft word or one pdf document
- shows a clear understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of your degree
- cites your coursework and published research on interdisciplinary studies
- 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). Also clearly state concentrations with total hours completed in each area.
2. **Summary of courses taken to complete the MA program,** organized by concentration area (each course listed should appear on your graduation degree plan – and you may want to include a completed degree plan as an appendix to this document). All courses should be listed by course prefix, number, and title, for example WRTG 515: Publishing. 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 information that captures what you uniquely focused on in each course—was there a special assignment that left you changed or enhanced in some special way? Write about what *you* did in each course rather than hear a description of what the professor did or offered.
3. **Interdisciplinary Reflection:** Reflect on how your concentration areas connected in an interdisciplinary manner, with illustration of such connections using several of the courses you have taken. Refer to several artifacts, papers or projects you completed as part of this program, that you include as appendices. Include the appendices at the end of the document. You could write about how your course selection in one discipline was affected by your learning and growth in the other discipline(s). Make connections here between your disciplines, citing your own coursework and the published work of others regarding interdisciplinary studies. Consider how learning in one area has really affected 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 four pages.
4. **Degree/Goals Alignment:** Please reflect on how this interdisciplinary degree program met your educational, professional, and personal goals. Focus on the degree itself, rather than your concentration areas here. Please note that this is something you articulated as part of your entrance requirement and mid-point requirement. You might want to revisit what you wrote at those times and address how your goals have remained the same or changed since then.
5. **Future Directions:** Please describe your short and long term goals for the future, as they relate to your completion of this MA degree. What are your personal, professional and educational intentions for the future?