Dear Student,

As a student in the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, you are asked to complete a mid-point review once you have reached 15-18 hours in the program, a logical half-way point. This is necessary in order to be considered as “making progress” toward the degree. Please note, this new requirement applies to all students who were newly admitted for the Fall of 2012 (and for some re-admit students). When writing your essay, please follow these guidelines. We look forward to reading your mid-point essay.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Coleman, Ph.D.,
Chair 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 Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies, and it is communicated to programmatic faculty. This essay should meet the following formatting guidelines:

- 5 typed pages
- 1” margins
- double-spaced
- 12-point font
- no unnecessary, extra spacing (use paragraph indentations rather than blank lines between paragraphs)
- saved as either a Microsoft word or pdf document.

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 intended hours to be completed in each area.

2. **Courses taken in the MA program to date:** You should list the courses you have taken and include a brief summary of each indicating its focus, from your perspective. Courses should be organized by concentration area, listed by course prefix, number, and title, for example IPS 580: Course Redesign. Your list may include courses taken that you have elected to no longer include as part of your degree program – please indicate this.

3. **Interdisciplinary Reflection:** reflect on how your concentration areas are connecting for you personally, 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 Psychology and Writing, how do these concentrations come together for you? Explain the connections you see and how these might contribute to your professional work.

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. Some students may find it very useful to complete a blank degree plan as part of this exercise or to revisit the one you completed with your Letter of Intent. Please note that no signatures would be required at this time. To consider future courses, consult the course rotations that are available on the program webpage and at the following link: http://www.wnmu.edu/courserotat/courserotat.shtml.

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. Please note that this is something you articulated as part of your entrance requirement. You might want to 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 application for graduation is due to the Registrar well before your actual commencement date. As part of the graduation requirements, you must complete exits in each of your concentrations as well as 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 your advisors and to our office at least 3 weeks before the end of the term (or by the deadline specified by your mentor if earlier than 3 weeks).