Dear Student,

As part of this program, you are required to complete an exit exam, project, or thesis in each of your concentration areas. Typically, these are free-standing exit exams that serve only the concentration area about which you are tested. In addition to these requirements for each concentration area, the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies requires that you complete an Interdisciplinary Exit Essay, addressing the connections between your 2 or 3 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.

Sincerely, Jennifer Coleman, Ph.D., Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies

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. This project will be assessed on a completed, meets request as outlined/not completed basis by the Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies, in consultation with programmatic faculty. This essay should meet the following formatting guidelines:

- 8-10 typed-pages, double-spaced
- 1” margins with 12-point font
- 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 total hours completed in each area. If you anticipate relocating in the near future, consider providing us with a mailing address that might be consistent and accessible to you over time.

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 IPS 580: Course Redesign. You should also include a brief summary about the focus of each course from your perspective.

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. Here, you are asked to include several artifacts from the work you completed as part of this program. You can include papers or projects that you completed as part of your degree that were informed from your multiple disciplines. You could write a short piece about how your course selection in one discipline was affected by your learning and growth in the other discipline(s). While your exit requirements in your fields of study may have tended to focus exclusively on those disciplines, please use this opportunity to make connections between those disciplines. Consider how learning in one area has really impacted your learning in the other area(s).

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?