

**Graduation.** To be eligible for the granting of the graduate degree, students must have been advanced to candidacy and have maintained a minimum program GPA of 3.0. In addition, grades must be posted in all courses taken, including those that are not part of the student's approved program, beginning with the earliest semester listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy. Students may not graduate with an *I*, *RD*, or *RP* in any course on their records, beginning with the earliest semester listed on the advancement petition.

**Distinction.** To be eligible to receive the graduate degree with distinction, students must have earned a minimum 3.9 GPA on all program coursework (courses listed on the advancement petition).

Doctoral students should consult the appropriate program for information on academic standards.

### **Administrative Academic Probation (AAP)**

Students enrolled in graduate degree programs may be placed on Administrative Academic Probation (AAP) for the following reasons: failure to maintain the minimum GPA of 3.0 required by the California State Education Code, Title 5; repeated failure to make progress toward the graduate degree; or failure to comply with an academic requirement or regulation that is routine for all students or for a defined group of students.

Students are required to maintain a minimum 3.0 postbaccalaureate cumulative GPA prior to advancement to candidacy, and a minimum 3.0 program GPA after advancement. Students who do not maintain the required GPA will be placed on AAP.

Doctoral students should consult the appropriate program for the program policy on administrative academic probation.

### **Academic Disqualification**

A postbaccalaureate student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 at any time will be disqualified from the university.

Graduate students may also be disqualified by the program for any of the following reasons: repeated withdrawal, failure to progress toward an educational objective, or noncompliance with an academic requirement. In addition, only those students who continue to show promise of success in and fitness for the profession, as determined by the graduate program faculty, will be permitted to continue in a graduate program.

Effective with the fall 2007 semester, students who are placed on AAP for any two semesters will be disqualified from the university.

Doctoral students should consult the appropriate program for the program policy on academic disqualification.

### **Graduate Interdisciplinary Studies**

- Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (M.A.)
- Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (M.S.)

The interdisciplinary studies program for the Master of Arts (M.A.) or Master of Science (M.S.) is available to qualified graduate students when there is a need for advanced study in subject matter that is interdisciplinary and that is not available through existing graduate programs. In such instances, proposals for an interdisciplinary program that may combine cohesive, interrelated coursework from two or more departments (at least two of which offer graduate courses (200-level), must be submitted for approval. Proposals that could be accommodated by an existing graduate degree or option at California State University, Fresno, as in the use of elective courses, are not approved.

The M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies differs from the M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies by requiring breadth of technical knowledge and attainment of specific professional competencies in scientific research methodologies and data-driven analysis. For detailed policy, requirements, and application, see the Division Web site at [www.csufresno.edu/gradstudies](http://www.csufresno.edu/gradstudies).

**Admission Eligibility.** Those seeking admission to the M.A. or M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies must adhere to university graduate admissions requirements, including submission of applications, official transcripts, and appropriate standardized test scores (e.g., GRE, TOEFL). Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA on previous graduate work and related prerequisites. Standards for admission to classified graduate standing as specified in this catalog for at least one of the principal departments must be met. All appropriate course prerequisites on the approved program must be completed. If eligible, students will be conditionally classified for admission until their proposed program of study is approved. Interdisciplinary Studies program applicants are initially advised in the Division of Graduate Studies. Applicants will not be considered for admission until they have consulted with the Division adviser.

**General Degree Requirements.** A minimum of 30 units is required. At least 70 percent (21 units) of the program must consist of graduate coursework (200-level courses). The proposed program must reflect the requirements of scholarly creativity and research appropriate to the graduate level and must exhibit overall coherence in a particular, recognized field of study. An acceptable thesis (2-6 units) that demonstrates interdisciplinary research is required. A creative project may be selected as an alternative to the thesis for appropriate M.A. programs. The faculty advisory committee may require an oral defense or presentation of the thesis/project, or a written final examination.

Although interdisciplinary studies provides an opportunity for exceptional students to engage in a program outside the framework of existing majors, **all academic standards and graduation requirements must be met.**

**Procedures.** Prior to or during the first term of study, students should seek the support of a preliminary faculty advisory committee to gain counsel and advice in forming an interdisciplinary graduate program. After consultation with the advisory committee, students should complete the Application to Pursue an Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate degree Program, which includes a plan of study.