Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program

at

Washington State University

2024-2025 Faculty/Student HANDBOOK

Revised August 2024

For information on the Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program
At Washington State University, contact:

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Letter from the Chair

We are glad that you decided to pursue a doctorate with the Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program (IIDP) at Washington State University (WSU). Expect a rigorous but exciting training experience during your tenure at WSU. The IIDP is a high-quality program that leads to interdisciplinary training in two or more disciplines to allow you to answer complex research questions that are best answered with a unique and interdisciplinary approach. The program is housed in the WSU Graduate School and has a high degree of support from faculty from graduate programs across the WSU system.

This document summarizes some of the important information that will guide your activities as you proceed toward your degree. This handbook provides an overview of the major requirements, thus serving as the program's policies and procedures for students progressing through the program. In addition to serving students in the program, the handbook provides guidance for faculty working on interdisciplinary committees.

As the name implies, the IIDP is uniquely designed and personalized to meet the professional interests and research endeavors of each individual student. Although the program maintains a high degree of flexibility, it is a rigorous program and requires the involvement of the Graduate School as well as at least two disciplines from degree-granting units on campus; one of the units must be a Ph.D.-granting unit. In addition to this handbook, graduate programs and students at WSU must follow the most current Graduate School Policies and Procedures. Individual programs may have specific requirements that align with, or exceed, the standards set by the Graduate School.

For anyone interested in potentially pursuing a degree in the IIDP, please contact our academic coordinator for more information. We would be glad to discuss the possibilities of this unique program in meeting your academic goals.

Again, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the program. We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to your success!

Sincerely,

Tammy D. Barry, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education
Chair, Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program

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Introduction:

The Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program (IIDP) at Washington State University (WSU) is designed for graduate students who want to address research questions spanning multiple traditional disciplines. By collaborating with WSU's graduate program faculty and the Graduate School, these students craft a personalized doctoral program that merges insights from various fields to shed light on multifaceted issues.

WSU has conferred Ph.D. degrees from the Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program since its inception in 1983 (https://gradschool.wsu.edu/). Alumni have embarked on diverse career paths, from academia to government and private sector roles. The IIDP offers a unique academic journey, allowing students to delve into a broad spectrum of knowledge.

This guide is tailored for students pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy through the IIDP and faculty members who mentor them. It outlines the IIDP's policies and procedures, ensuring alignment with WSU's Graduate School Policies & Procedures (GSP&P) – in case of any misalignment, GSP&P must take precedence over any policies outlined in this handbook. For a comprehensive list of WSU's course offerings, consult the Catalog. This handbook should be used in conjunction with these resources.

Due to the unique nature of the IIDP, this handbook details the specific admission and program procedures for the IIDP, which vary somewhat from traditional programs. In particular, this program is not intended to be a fallback for students who do not qualify for other Ph.D. programs; neither is the IIDP a substitute for departments without Ph.D. offerings.

Program Mission:

The mission of the Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program is to support visionary thinkers and transformative leaders who seek to combine the knowledge and processes of two or more disciplines, forging innovative pathways to address contemporary research challenges with depth, insight, and creative solutions.

Program Structure and Administration:

Given that the IIDP is housed in the Graduate School, the Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education heads the IIDP, acting as both the Department Chair and Dean, whereas the Associate Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Initiatives serves the role of the Program Director. The Academic Coordinator assists the Director in supporting students and faculty.

In consultation with the Chair, the Program Director oversees the academic direction, formulates policies, and represents the program's interests to the broader university community. The Chair has the final oversight of all structural and governance matters. The Program Director and Academic Coordinator are each appointed by the Chair.

IIDP's governance structure includes a variety of committees. The IIDP Graduate Committee consists of Associate Vice Provosts (AVPs) for the Graduate School, including AVP for Interdisciplinary Initiatives, AVP for Graduate Academic Programs, and AVP for Graduate Enrollment Management. The committee makes recommendations to the Chair of the program (i.e., Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education) after deliberating on the emergent and future-oriented strategic issues regarding IIDP. The IIDP Admissions Committee consists of the same three AVPs of the Graduate School. This committee meets in person or online for admissions-related decision-making during spring and summer when needed. The committee makes recommendations to the Chair of the program (i.e., Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education), who is the final arbiter in such cases. The IIDP Examination Committee consists of the same three AVPs for the Graduate School. This committee meets in

person or online for student examination-related decisions when needed. The committee makes recommendations to the Chair of the program (i.e., Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education), who is the final arbiter in such cases. The IIDP Curriculum Committee consists of the same three AVPs for the Graduate School. The IIDP Quality Assurance Committee consists of the same three AVPs for the Graduate School.

The Program Director and Academic Coordinator work in the Graduate School and are the primary contacts for prospective students and offer guidance throughout the doctoral journey.

Program Goals:

1. The IIDP at WSU is tailored for graduate students pursuing research questions beyond the scope of individual disciplines. This program fosters a multidisciplinary approach, often suitable for exploring complex issues.
2. With the support of WSU's graduate program faculty and the Graduate School, the IIDP supports students in designing a doctoral program that synthesizes expertise across two or more disciplines.
3. The IIDP aims to develop students into adept researchers, engaged educators, and influential leaders in their chosen fields. Under the guidance of experienced faculty mentors, students are equipped to make significant scholarly contributions and lead transformative initiatives.
4. By addressing multifaceted challenges through its students and graduate program faculty, the IIDP seeks to make a lasting impact on the local, national, and global stage.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program (IIDP) is committed to fostering a rich academic environment that nurtures innovative thinkers. The program's learning outcomes ensure that students acquire knowledge and develop the skills necessary to apply this knowledge in academic and real-world contexts. Specifically, the program aims to:

1. **Equip students with a tailored interdisciplinary framework.** Through the IIDP, students will:
    a. Articulate the importance of using an interdisciplinary framework for answering specific complex questions.
    b. Acquire a deep understanding of relevant concepts, methodologies, and materials from at least two disciplines that form the foundation of their studies.
    c. Gain hands-on experience applying knowledge from these disciplines, promoting creative and integrative thought processes.
    d. Engage with the broader academic community by participating in professional organizations.
2. **Enable students to become influential researchers, teachers, and thinkers.** The program ensures that students:
    a. Benefit from the guidance of mentors from at least two disciplines, fostering interdisciplinary research and integrative thinking.
    b. Develop into independent researchers in their interdisciplinary field, amassing expertise that enables them to contribute original insights.
    c. Formulate research questions based on a thorough understanding of past and present studies in the field and demonstrate this knowledge proficiently.
    d. Employ robust research methodologies to address their research questions and articulate these methods clearly.
    e. Analyze and interpret research data cogently, drawing meaningful conclusions.
    f. Produce and share their research findings in peer-reviewed journals and present their work at local, regional, and national professional conferences.

Program Outcomes:

The IIDP is dedicated to upholding and elevating the stature of interdisciplinary studies at WSU. To this end, the program seeks to:

1. **Attract and Cultivate Excellence.** Recruit excellent students and innovative thinkers, empowering them to merge insights from multiple disciplines. The goal is to further knowledge and drive real-world change through this integrated understanding.
2. **Prioritize Effective Mentorship.** Offer robust advising and mentorship to support students' progress and timely graduation.
3. **Facilitate Successful Career Placements.** Support graduates in successfully competing for positions in academia and industry, reflecting the program's quality and relevance.
4. **Foster Continuous Communication.** Maintain open communication with disciplinary programs and faculty. This goal emphasizes attracting nationally acclaimed faculty, offering cutting-edge courses, and championing integrative, interdisciplinary studies. Such efforts ensure regular engagement with IIDP students and their research endeavors.

Admission Requirements:

The Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program (IIDP) at Washington State University welcomes applications from students preferably with a master's degree from accredited or equivalent high quality institutions. Exceptional candidates with a bachelor's degree and substantial research experience may also be considered, contingent upon the endorsement of a faculty of the Graduate School (https://gradschool.wsu.edu/faculty-of-the-graduate-school/). Prospective students should identify and secure commitments from potential committee members, as this is a prerequisite for admission.

Selection Criteria: Admission to the IIDP is selective, prioritizing dedicated, innovative, and academically outstanding students. The selection process holistically evaluates the applicant's potential for thriving in an interdisciplinary setting. Successful candidates must exhibit motivation and aptitude for multidisciplinary research. The proposed research topic must primarily span at least two disciplines that may only be addressed outside any existing Ph.D. program at WSU. If an admitted student later shifts their research focus, reapplication to a specific program may be necessary.

Application Prerequisites:

1. Engage in a preliminary discussion about research interests with the IIDP Program Director.
2. Apply to the Graduate School.
3. Hold the degree(s) from accredited or equivalent high quality institutions, with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Master's degree is preferred but exceptional candidates with a bachelor's degree and substantial research experience may also be considered, contingent upon the endorsement of a faculty of the Graduate School (https://gradschool.wsu.edu/faculty-of-the-graduate-school/) and the discretion of the IIDP Program Director.
4. Provide evidence of capability for independent research within the application.

Required Application Materials:

Applications are submitted through the Graduate School Website. Applications should be submitted by January 10 for priority consideration. Applications will not be reviewed until they are complete.

Materials needed include:

1. Online application and supporting materials.
2. Three recommendation letters highlighting the applicant's academic ability, experience, and potential for independent Ph.D. research.
3. Transcripts that reflect a minimum 3.0 GPA in graduate, and a minimum of 3.0 GPA in undergraduate coursework. WSU students are exempted from submitting WSU transcripts.
4. A statement of purpose of no more than three pages delineating the following:
    a) Identification of the proposed research topic/area preferably with research questions.
    b) A brief description of the relevance of the proposed research with relevant academic citations from diverse disciplines, and its potential contributions to the fields of research. An example of a sentence with relevant academic citations is as follows: "Prior research shows that instructors benefit from having a critical awareness of the identities and context in which their students exist (Major and Palmer, 2006; Slay and Smith, 2011; Walton and Yeager, 2020)."
    c) A detailed explanation of why the research topic cannot be pursued in a single academic discipline at WSU.
    d) Identification of two or more distinct academic disciplines (that is, from different degree-granting colleges/units) that could enable exploring the research questions effectively.
    e) One of the disciplines identified above must offer doctoral degrees on its own. List these distinct academic disciplines from different degree-granting colleges/units;
        1. _____
        2. _____, and more if needed

5. A program of study listing *proposed* course work from the disciplines identified in #4 above.

6. Written commitment from a minimum of four faculty members (including potential Chair of the program/ dissertation committee) representing each of the two or more distinct disciplines (academic degree-granting units) to serve on student's doctoral committee. Committee member should be listed as faculty of the Graduate School (https://gradschool.wsu.edu/faculty-of-the-graduate-school/. If two disciplines are chosen, two faculty members should preferably be from each of the two disciplines, and three of the four faculty (including the committee chair) must be a member of the Graduate Faculty (e.g., tenure track appointment) and others could be Associate Graduate Faculty (e.g., career track appt.) or Auxiliary Graduate Faculty within the Faculty of the Graduate School. Non-WSU faculty could also be approved as a fourth committee member as an exception, if considered an expert in the research topic, as documented by a memo from the chair of the student's committee, with a supporting CV.

    Name: Discipline:

    1. _____
    2. _____
    3. _____
    4. _____ , and more if needed

7. Emails from the faculty members should be sent directly to the IIDP Academic Coordinator indicating their commitment to serve on the students' IIDP doctoral committee. In the email, the faculty should include a brief statement of how their expertise will contribute to the interdisciplinary nature of the student's proposed research.
8. A summary statement (no more than 2 pages) by the student discussing how the identified faculty members' (in #6) research expertise will contribute to the student's IIDP research and program of study.

Student Financial Support:

The IIDP does not directly offer assistantships or scholarships. Students are responsible for personally securing their funding through university departments or other means. The Graduate School website provides links to potential funding opportunities at WSU. Additionally, students are encouraged to collaborate with their advisory committee to explore and apply for external funding sources.

The Doctoral Advisory Committee:

The doctoral advisory committee, comprising a minimum of four faculty members, is pivotal in guiding students throughout the Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program (IIDP). This advisory committee assists students in formulating their formal proposal and provides continuing support until the completion of the doctoral degree.

Composition of the Doctoral Advisory Committee:

1. Of the four advisory committee members:
    a. A minimum of two members must be Graduate Faculty within the Faculty of the Graduate School.
    b. Other members may be Associate Graduate Faculty or Auxiliary Graduate Faculty within the Faculty of the Graduate School.
    c. Within a four-member committee, up to one non-WSU faculty may be approved for the committee. To be approved, they must be an expert in the research topic, as documented by a memo from the chair of the student's advisory committee, with a supporting CV.
    d. The committee chair must be a Graduate Faculty member and should have previous experience on doctoral committees. An Associate Graduate Faculty member can serve as a co-chair.
    e. Faculty must be from at least two academic degree-granting departments or programs.
    f. At least one of the two academic disciplines must be a Ph.D.-granting unit.

Responsibility of the Committee Chair:

The chair is the primary mentor, ensuring regular interactions given the student's unique positioning within the IIDP. Responsibilities encompass:

1. Assisting in the student's program proposal development.
2. Facilitating paperwork and being aware of deadlines.
3. Holding regular student meetings.
4. Resolving issues and liaising with the IIDP Program Director or IIDP Academic Coordinator when necessary.
5. Recommending courses, faculty, and resources.
6. Conducting annual student progress reviews.
7. Assisting in scheduling exams and ensuring proper proctoring.
8. Overseeing research and writing.
9. Chairing committee meetings.
10. Directing students to relevant resources.

Responsibility of the Doctoral Advisory Committee:

The committee provides critical oversight of a comprehensive graduate program for the student. Responsibilities include:

1. Attending key committee meetings.
2. Approving the Program of Study.
3. Approving the research proposal (qualifying exam).
4. Recommending coursework and faculty resources.

5. Evaluating the written preliminary examination and conducting the oral preliminary examination.
6. Reviewing dissertation drafts and conducting the final oral defense.

Responsibility of the Student:

Students must adhere to all Graduate School Policies and Procedures and uphold WSU's standards of conduct. They are responsible for:

1. Forming their doctoral advisory committee.
2. Submitting all necessary paperwork promptly.
3. Ensuring a complete approved doctoral advisory committee.
4. Replacing committee members if needed.
5. Maintaining a 3.0 GPA or above.
6. Maintaining satisfactory research course grades.
7. Following the examination process outlined in the Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual.

Interdisciplinary Coursework:

The Graduate School offers two interdisciplinary graduate-level courses:

1. **Interdisciplinary (INTERDIS 591):** A course for interdisciplinary research students.
2. **Interdisciplinary Seminar (INTERDIS 598):** A course that prepares students to complete the IIDP qualifying examination requirement.

Additional Course Requirements:

IIDP students typically take a minimum of three courses in each of the two disciplines, totaling at least 18 credit hours. The student should refer to the Graduate School Policies and Procedures for current course requirements.

Breakdown of Semester Hour Requirements for the Ph.D.:

1. **Core Courses for the Ph.D. in IIDP:** Minimum 15 semester hours of graded graduate-level courses, which include:
    - At least six graded credit hours from each of the two academic disciplines.
    - INTERDIS 591: Interdisciplinary Studies (1 hour; graded).
2. **Research:**
    - INTERDIS 598: Interdisciplinary Seminar (1 hour; satisfactory/fail).
    - Minimum of 20 semester hours of doctoral research credits (INTERDIS 800).

Any additional credits required to reach the 72 required semester hours for a doctoral degree can be fulfilled with non-graded graduate credits. After the program proposal's approval, the Graduate School will officially review transfer credits. Any subsequent changes in coursework must be filed using the appropriate form from the Graduate School.

The program will consider transferable credits that are applicable to the discipline areas chosen for the degree. Any credits transferred will count toward the 72 required credits for the degree. The doctoral advisory committee member(s) with the respective expertise would be asked to review the syllabus from any course to be transferred and approve it or not. If approved, it can be added to the student’s doctoral program of study.

Dismissal from the IIDP:

The conditions for a student's dismissal from the IIDP are the same as detailed in the Graduate Program Policies & Procedures Manual. Please review Chapter 6, section C, sub-sections 3, 1, 2, and 4 for details (https://emailwsu.sharepoint.com/:w:/t/gradschool.documentshare/EYDhL6PVYhtDh_IRzjZFDvwBLscBAoo2Cos4Ihq5V2ktmg?e=5q9fNA)

Program Milestones

1. The Qualifying Exam:

A student's program proposal approved by the student's doctoral advisory committee and IIDP graduate committee indicates successful completion of the qualifying examination. A student's program proposal is developed during the third semester of the program to ensure students maintain sufficient progress. This proposal is an extension of the research paper developed in INTERDIS 598. The research paper first gets approved by the INTERDIS 598 instructor earning "Satisfactory" grade. Next, it is presented to the student's doctoral program advisory committee for approval – committee members may suggest improvements in the research paper which shall be considered for the updated version based on the student's and their chair's discretion. Each doctoral program advisory committee member sends an email to the INTERDIS 598 instructor with a copy to the student regarding their decision to approve or not with their rationale in brief. The student compiles the feedback-set as they are in a single document and sends this comprehensive feedback document to the INTERDIS 598 instructor and IIDP academic coordinator. The instructor presents the comprehensive document and committee members' decisions for the review by the IIDP graduate committee. IIDP graduate committee's approval certifies successful completion of the IIDP qualifying examination. In sum, the proposal should be approved by the doctoral advisory committee as well as IIDP graduate committee no later than the fourth semester of the program.

Key Features:

- The program proposal is a comprehensive document showcasing a cohesive interdisciplinary doctoral study plan.
- Upon approval of the program proposal, the student must submit their Program of Study form detailing the student's committee composition and course requirements.
- Major changes in the committee, especially for the committee chair, necessitate a review of the student's program by the Program Director.

Elements Required in the Program Proposal:

The program proposal should include:

1. **Summary Statement:** A concise description of the proposal objective, the disciplines chosen, and the rationale for an interdisciplinary approach.
2. **Description of the student's Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program:** An overview of the proposed areas of study and the knowledge that each contributes.
3. **Interest Areas:** Identify and describe two interest areas to be covered throughout the doctoral process.
4. **Degree-Granting Units:** Identify the two main disciplines that support the interest areas; at least one must be a doctoral degree-granting unit.
5. **Doctoral Advisory Committee:** List of committee members and their contributions.
6. **Program of Study:** An official list of courses for the doctoral program approved and signed by the doctoral advisory committee. Following approval of the qualifying exam, the Program of Study will be approved by the Program Director and submitted by the Academic Coordinator to the Graduate School for approval.

This program of study can be updated over time based on the advice by the student's doctoral advisory committee and IIDP graduate committee as needed.

7. **Justification for Interdisciplinary Approach:** Explain why the proposed program is unique and does not fit within any one graduate program at WSU.
8. **Proposed Dissertation Research:** Briefly describe the proposed dissertation topic. This description will serve as the basis for the preliminary examination.
9. **Timeline:** Expected milestones for coursework completion, examinations, research, and graduation.
10. **References:** A list of sources referenced in the program proposal.

The Approval Process:

Approval of the program proposal by the Doctoral program advisory committee and IIDP graduate committee signifies successful completion of the IIDP qualifying examination. Once the program proposal is approved, the student will receive an official letter or email acknowledging the committee's decision.

Qualifying Exam Appeals:

In the Individual Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program (IIDP), students are granted the opportunity to retake the qualifying exam if they fail their first attempt. IIDP will follow WSU's Graduate School Policies & Procedures (GSP&P) to address the appeals. Please review Chapter 12 of the Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual.

1. Post-First Attempt Action Plan: After an unsuccessful first attempt, the student's advisory committee chair and the Program Director will collaborate to devise a comprehensive improvement plan. This plan will outline specific, measurable milestones tailored to address the areas where the student needs enhancement.
2. Communication: The improvement plan will be transparently shared with the student's full committee to ensure all members are aligned in their expectations and support for the student's progress.
3. Timing for the Second Attempt: A minimum waiting period after the first attempt may be recommended by the student's committee and/or IIDP graduate committee. This will be solely to allow the student ample time to work on the areas of improvement identified in the action plan.

Should a student not succeed on their second attempt:

1. Recommendation for Dismissal: The student's advisory committee chair will formally recommend the student's dismissal from the IIDP program. This recommendation is based on the premise that the student has been given ample guidance and time to address areas of weakness but has not demonstrated the necessary proficiency or understanding to continue in the program.
2. Appeal Process: To initiate the appeal process:
    a. The student must submit a written and signed appeal.
    b. The appeal must be directed to the Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education at the Graduate School.
    c. This appeal must be lodged within 15 days from the date the student receives the official notification of the recommended dismissal else it will not be accepted resulting in student's dismissal from the program.

The appeal process is designed to ensure that all perspectives are considered, and decisions are made in the best interest of both the student and the academic standards of the IIDP.

2. The Preliminary Examination

Successful oral presentation built on the student's approved program proposal toward their qualifying examination (see program milestones' section above) to the student's doctoral advisory committee signifies successful completion of the preliminary examination.

The written proposal for this exam could be a further developed document based on the feedback from relevant committees. An oral presentation to the doctoral advisory committee and their approval is pivotal in signifying the successful completion of the preliminary examination. Overall, the preliminary examination includes both written and oral components.

Key Points:

- The preliminary examination can be taken any time after passing the qualifying exam, provided the student has an approved program of study with no more than six graded credits remaining.
- Students must register for at least two credits of INTERDIS 800 in the semester they plan to take their preliminary examination.
- The examination must be scheduled through the Graduate School via the IIDP Academic Coordinator at least ten working days before the oral exam.
- The examination process follows the Graduate School Policies and Procedures.

Roles and Responsibilities in the Preliminary Exam:

- **Doctoral Advisory Committee:** The committee collaborates with the student to design the preliminary examination. They are responsible for drafting and reviewing the written portion of the exam, providing feedback, and evaluating the student's performance.
- **Chair:** The chair organizes committee meetings, provides feedback to the student, and may assist in logistical arrangements for the exam.
- **Student:** The student must be familiar with all relevant policies and procedures, register for the required credits, schedule the examination, and ensure all documentation is in order.

Components of a Typical Preliminary Examination:

1. **Written Research Proposal:** This proposal should clearly define the research question, its context, and how it relates to the various fields of study in the IIDP. The research proposal should comply with a format agreed upon by the student and their committee. If the student's research involves human or animal subjects, they must receive university approval before beginning their research, using the forms available from the Office of Research Assurances at WSU. A copy of the final research proposal must be provided to the Program Director.

2. **Oral Examination:** The entire doctoral advisory committee conducts the oral examination. The Program Director may also be present. The student formally presents their research proposal during the oral examination in an open meeting. In defense of that research proposal, the student may be asked to address specific methods or assumptions of the proposed research, any questions remaining after committee members have read the written examination, and any questions related to the scholarship. At the close of the oral examination, the doctoral advisory committee members will vote on whether the student has passed or failed the preliminary examination.

3. The committee members will share their decision to pass or not and its rationale with the IIDP director – they may do so through the chair or independently. The director will share the committee's decision and rationale with the IIDP graduate committee. IIDP graduate committee's approval certifies successful completion of the IIDP preliminary examination.

Second Preliminary Exam Attempt

In the event of a failed first attempt of a preliminary examination, a second and final attempt may be scheduled as per Chapter One and Chapter Eight of the WSU's Graduate School Policies & Procedures (GSP&P). A student who has failed two preliminary examinations will be dismissed from the Graduate School. The student may appeal their dismissal by following the procedures outlined in Chapter 12 of the Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual.

3. The Dissertation:

The dissertation is the culmination of the student's research. The doctoral advisory committee has final approval of the dissertation scope and format. Please review Chapter 8, section F (Doctoral Final Exam Policies) and Chapter 6, section H for details (Submitting the Final Thesis or Dissertation to the Graduate School).

4. The Final Doctoral Examination:

This is the final defense of the student's research and dissertation. The examination process follows the Graduate School Policies and Procedures. Please review these policies in Chapter 8, Section F (Doctoral Degree Requirements – Doctoral Final Exam Policies).

Appendix A

Application for Admission checklist for IIDP in Fall Semester (typically no Spring admission)

Applications are submitted through the Graduate School Website. Applications should be submitted by January 10 for priority consideration. Applications will not be reviewed until they are complete.

Required Application Materials:

Applications are submitted through the Graduate School Website. Materials needed include:

1. Online application and supporting materials.
2. Three recommendation letters highlighting the applicant's academic ability, experience, and potential for independent Ph.D. research.
3. Transcripts that reflect a minimum 3.0 GPA in graduate, and a minimum of 3.0 GPA in undergraduate coursework. WSU students are exempted from submitting WSU transcripts.
4. A statement of purpose of no more than three pages delineating the following:
    a) Identification of the proposed research topic/area preferably with research questions.
    b) A brief description of the relevance of the proposed research with relevant academic citations from diverse disciplines, and its potential contributions to the fields of research. An example of a sentence with relevant academic citations is as follows: “Prior research shows that instructors benefit from having a critical awareness of the identities and context in which their students exist (Major and Palmer, 2006; Slay and Smith, 2011; Walton and Yeager, 2020).”
    c) A detailed explanation of why the research topic cannot be pursued in a single academic discipline at WSU.
    d) Identification of two or more distinct academic disciplines (that is, from different degree-granting colleges/units) that could enable exploring the research questions effectively.
    e) One of the disciplines identified above must offer doctoral degrees on its own. List these distinct academic disciplines from different degree-granting colleges/units.
        1. _____
        2. _____, and more if needed

5. A program of study listing *proposed* course work from the two disciplines identified in #4 above.

6. Written commitment from a minimum of faculty members (including potential Chair of the program/ dissertation committee) representing each of the two or more distinct disciplines (academic degree-granting units) to serve on student’s doctoral committee. All committee members should preferably have doctoral degrees, check with the Academic Coordinator for exceptions. If two disciplines are chosen, two faculty members should preferably be from each of the two disciplines, and three of the four faculty (including the committee chair) must be a member of the Graduate Faculty (e.g., tenure track appointment) and others could be Associate Graduate Faculty (e.g., career track appt.) or Auxiliary Graduate Faculty within the Faculty of the Graduate School. Non-WSU faculty could also be approved as a fourth committee member as an exception, if considered an expert in the research topic, as documented by a memo from the chair of the student’s committee, with a supporting CV.

    Name: Discipline:

    1. _____
    2. _____
    3. _____

4. _____, and more if needed

7. Emails from the faculty members should be sent directly to the IIDP Academic Coordinator indicating their commitment to serve on the students' IIDP doctoral committee. In the email, the faculty should include a brief statement of how their expertise will contribute to the interdisciplinary nature of the student's proposed research.
   A summary statement (no more than 2 pages) by the student discussing how the identified faculty members' in #6 research expertise will contribute to the student's IIDP research and program of study.

Appendix B

Coursework and Program Requirements checklist

1. **INTERDIS 591 "Interdisciplinarity" (enroll in the second semester, only offered in spring)**
2. **Qualifying Examination (enroll in the third semester, excluding summer)**
   - Maintain a 3.0 GPA in all WSU graduate coursework
   - Enroll in INTERDIS 598 (only offered in fall)
   - Complete the formal program proposal as outlined in the course syllabus
     - Must be reviewed and approved by doctoral committee, department chairs, and IIDP Graduate Committee

3. **Program of Study Submitted to the graduate School (third semester, due to academic coordinator in the third week of September or February)**
   a. Prepare program of study using this sample of a "breakdown of semester hour requirements":

      a. Start with the "must take" INTERDIS 591 (1 hour; graded) and INTERDIS 598 (1 hour; satisfactory/fail)
         1. Additional course requirements include *typically taking a minimum of three courses in each of the two disciplines*, totaling at least 18 credit hours. The student should refer to the Graduate School Policies and Procedures for current course requirements.

      b. Core Courses for the Ph.D. in IIDP in addition to INTERDIS 591 (1 credit, graded) and INTERDIS 598 (1 credit, S/F):
         1. Identify and list a minimum of three courses in each of the two disciplines worth 18 credit hours (assuming each course is 3 credit hours) though *only a minimum of 15 semester hours of graded graduate-level courses* is required by the graduate school's policies.
            a. In all transfer cases, the number of such credit hours is limited to no more than half of the total graded course credits required by the IIDP (9 credit hours)
         2. Minimum of 20 semester hours of doctoral research credits (INTERDIS 800).

Any additional credits required to reach the 72 required semester hours for a doctoral degree can be fulfilled with non-graded graduate credits.