Please attach/submit additional documents as needed to fully complete each section of the form. See information about Level I Proposals.

I. DEPARTMENT / PROGRAM

Graduate School / Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs

II. SUMMARY

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs at the University of Montana requests to change its doctoral degree major to Interdisciplinary Studies to better reflect the existing program; to better serve students; and to follow national trends in graduate interdisciplinary degree titles. This re-title is the result of a survey of all interdisciplinary doctoral degree titles in the United States.

212 Universities are categorized as having Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies from College Navigator at the National Center for Education Statistics (database generated on 1/11/2016). 132 of those did not have a graduate program or Interdisciplinary program like UM’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs where students either self-designed (IIP) or combine of disciplines in a hybrid program (Master of Interdisciplinary Studies). 80 institutions (including UM) have interdisciplinary programs at the graduate level. Of those, 9 out of 22 (41%) of PhD degrees have its major as Interdisciplinary Studies, and only 3 degrees have the major as Individual Interdisciplinary. Titles such as Interdisciplinary Program and Interdisciplinary Sciences are similar to Interdisciplinary Studies, which would mean that 50% of the degrees are titled in a similar way to convey the idea of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Therefore, the Graduate School requests that its current Individual Interdisciplinary (or Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Program) doctoral program be retitled to Interdisciplinary Studies in order to align with the national trend.

IV. ENDORSEMENTS AND APPROVALS

Requestor: Raquel Arouca
Phone/Email: 243-6695/ raquel.arouca@msou.montana.edu
Program Chair: Scott Whittenburg

*Other Affected Programs:

Dean: Scott Whittenburg
Provost’s Office:
1 offers choices for MA, MS, Med, and PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies.
2 offers MIS and PhD (University of Montana).
   - PhD title Individual Interdisciplinary.
3 offer MA, MS and PhD
   - Degree titles:
     - Individual Interdisciplinary;
     - <title approved by Graduate School>, interdisciplinary;
     - Interdisciplinary Studies.
1 offers MS and PhD Multidisciplinary Sciences.
1 offers MA, MS, MFA, PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies <Theme/focus>.
1 offers MA and PhD. The PhD degree title used to be PhD interdisciplinary in <student specialization>. It will change to just say in the diploma Doctor of Philosophy (no major).

14 institutions offer only doctoral programs:
13 offer Doctor of Philosophy, with the titles being:
   - 1 PhD in (names of departments – only 2 departments possible)
   - 1 Interdisciplinary Leadership
   - 2 Interdisciplinary Sciences
   - 1 Interdisciplinary Program
   - 1 Educational Studies Individually Designed
   - 6 Interdisciplinary Studies
   - 1 title of the degree from host department
   - 1 <title approved by Graduate School>
1 offers Doctor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Hence 9 out of 22 (41%) of PhD degrees have its major as Interdisciplinary Studies, and only 3 degrees have the major as Individual Interdisciplinary. Titles such as Interdisciplinary Program and Interdisciplinary Sciences are similar to Interdisciplinary Studies, which would mean that 50% of the degrees are titled in a similar way to convey the idea of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Therefore, the Graduate School requests the retitling to better serve the students and to align with the national trend.

VI SUBMISSION

Submit the complete Level I proposal to the Provost’s Office for initial review. After all signatures have been obtained, submit original, and an electronic file to the Faculty Senate Office, UH 221, camie.foos@msoumt.edu

Level 1 proposals also require Board of Regents approval. The appropriate BOR forms must be submitted with this form.
B. Level II:

1. Establishing a new postsecondary educational program (Curriculum Proposal and Reviewed Intent to Plan Form)

2. Exceeding the 120 credit maximum for baccalaureate degrees Exception to policy 301.11

4. Forming, eliminating or consolidating a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit (Curriculum or Center/Institute Proposal and Reviewed Intent to Plan Form, except when eliminating or consolidating)

5. Re-titling a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory or similar unit

Specify Request:

Request for authorization to re-title the existing major from Individual Interdisciplinary to Interdisciplinary Studies. The Graduate School of the University of Montana currently offers a PhD in Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Program (called IIP). This is a self-designed program where students bring forward a problem or series of problems to research and, working collaboratively with faculty, define and execute the research goals by designing a curriculum to acquire the skills and competencies needed to reach those goals. The strength of the degree is to provide opportunities for students to tailor their academic degree to their personal and professional needs through innovation and interdisciplinarity, engaging in research that directly addresses complex problem-based questions that cannot be addressed with traditional methods or by being discipline-bound.

The degree, however, provides a challenge for students regarding its title, which means that students need to carefully plan their career path and actively promote their degree with prospective employers. At the University of Montana, students are awarded a PhD in Individual Interdisciplinary. Such title is less engaging to employers and does not describe the degree acquired.

Upon research on current interdisciplinary graduate programs nationwide, the findings are: 212 Universities are categorized as having Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies from College Navigator at the National Center for Education Statistics (database generated on 1/11/2016). 132 of those did not have a graduate program or Interdisciplinary program like UM’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs where students either self-designed (IIP) or combine of disciplines in a hybrid program (Master of Interdisciplinary Studies). 80 institutions (including UM) have interdisciplinary programs at the graduate level. Of those, 8 offer both Master and Doctoral degrees:

- 1 offers choices for MA, MS, Med, and PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies.
- 1 offers MIS and PhD (University of Montana).
  - PhD title Individual Interdisciplinary.
- 3 offer MA, MS and PhD
  - Degree titles:
    - Individual Interdisciplinary;
    - <title approved by Graduate School>, interdisciplinary;
    - Interdisciplinary Studies.
- 1 offers MS and PhD Multidisciplinary Sciences.
- 1 offers MA, MS, MFA, PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies <Theme/focus>.


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- 1 offers MA and PhD. The PhD degree title used to be PhD interdisciplinary in <student specialization>. It will change to just say in the diploma Doctor of Philosophy (no major).
- **14** institutions offer only doctoral programs:
  - **13** offer Doctor of Philosophy, with the titles being:
    - **1** PhD in (names of departments – only 2 departments possible)
    - **1** Interdisciplinary Leadership
    - **2** Interdisciplinary Sciences
    - **1** Interdisciplinary Program
    - **1** Educational Studies Individually Designed
    - **6** Interdisciplinary Studies
    - **1** title of the degree from host department
    - **1** <title approved by Graduate School>
  - **1** offers Doctor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Hence 9 out of 22 (41%) of PhD degrees have its major as Interdisciplinary Studies, and only 3 degrees have the major as Individual Interdisciplinary. Titles such as Interdisciplinary Program and Interdisciplinary Sciences are similar to Interdisciplinary Studies, which would mean that 50% of the degrees are titled in a similar way to convey the idea of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Therefore, the Graduate School requests that its current Individual Interdisciplinary (or Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Program) doctoral program be retitled to Interdisciplinary Studies in order to align with the national trend.