Western Michigan University’s Graduate College developed the Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Studies (Ph.D.) in response to emerging interest in studies that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries and increasing national demand for interdisciplinary approaches to research and education.

This degree offers flexibility to students with interests outside existing boundaries and established programs by allowing them to combine coursework and research in two or more disciplines/programs from across the University.

As a self-designed program that is developed by the student with input from faculty champions from the chosen areas, the degree makes it possible for graduate students interested in combining disciplines to create a degree program tailored to their academic and professional needs. The program of study for each student will be designed by the student and the faculty mentors.

Teaching, Research and Program Focus Areas
Graduate students have the potential to work with faculty throughout the University, including working across colleges. The program promotes independent research involving a multidisciplinary approach.

Funding
Graduate assistantships for teaching or research appointments may be available from participating departments/programs but are not guaranteed. Students will be accepted into the Ph.D. program without funding.

Admission
Domestic
Applications accepted on an ongoing basis, allowing students to begin coursework during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

International
Fall 2018: April 1, 2018
Spring 2019: Aug. 1, 2018
Summer 2019: Jan. 15, 2019

The Graduate College
wmich.edu/grad
(269) 387-8212

Dr. Christine Byrd-Jacobs
Acting Dean, Associate Dean
christine.byrd@wmich.edu