

ACTION ITEM #

Establish a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies Degree (T. Chris Riley-Tillman)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies degree for the WSU Pullman campus

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents establish a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies degree for the WSU Pullman campus

SUBMITTED BY: T. Chris Riley-Tillman, Provost and Executive Vice President

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: The Graduate School proposes the establishment of the Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (MSIS) degree for the WSU Pullman campus.

The Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies will provide an advanced educational platform that aligns with Washington State University's mission to foster innovative and integrated academic programs. This degree will leverage WSU's diverse academic resources and cater to students seeking to synthesize knowledge from multiple disciplines to address complex real-world challenges.

This proposal is for a hybrid program that addresses the growing demand for interdisciplinary expertise in academic and professional fields. WSU has offered a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies for over 40 years; the addition of this program would provide an option for students whose academic and career goals can be met with a master's degree.

By leveraging WSU's diverse academic resources, the MSIS program will produce graduates equipped with interdisciplinary expertise and a unique skill set tailored to contemporary and future societal needs.

This proposal was reviewed carefully and has support from the Provost's Office. This proposal was recommended by the Faculty Senate on January 30, 2025. The Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies degree proposal is available upon request.

The Graduate School proposes the establishment of the Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies degree effective as soon as feasible, ideally by Fall 2025.