

Annual Academic Assessment Report

Master of Arts/Interdisciplinary Studies (IDSTMA)

(June 1, 2024)

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes:

Data on student learning outcomes upon degree completion is not available at the time of this report due to the short period of time the degree has been offered. The program started in the Fall 2023 semester and will graduate its first student in August 2024.

Changes to degree planned or made on the basis of the assessment and analysis

There are no changes to the degree program on the basis of the assessment and analysis because there is little assessment data to support any change at this point.

Focus for the coming year will be student recruitment and retention. The uniqueness of the IDSTMA program as well as the newness of the degree has created challenges in enrollment. Currently the enrollment reflects the following:

- Currently enrolled in the program = 5 students (1 scheduled to graduate August 2024)
- Admitted, but not enrolled yet = 6 applicants
- Incomplete applications = 6 applicants
- Admission denials = 1 applicant

A challenge for the IDSTMA is the academic advising which requires assisting students in finding accessible courses across campus that meet their needs as defined by the primary and secondary foci they establish. While the required courses are online, the degree itself can be completed with a mixture of online and on-campus coursework. However, many academic disciplines that students might be interested in pursuing as their primary or secondary areas of focus are not offered online making it difficult for the student who is only interested in a 100% online degree. To combat this challenge, students who are admitted to the program are made aware of the opportunity to take one or more certificate programs offered by the University of Arkansas Global Campus. Stacking certificates can be attractive for many students.

The IDSTMA program director will continue to work with Global Campus as well as academic programs across campus to create first an awareness of the flexibility of the degree and the opportunity for programs to increase their course enrollments by allowing IDSTMA student to enroll.

Changes to the assessment process made or planned:

At this time there are no changes to the assessment process. The assessment plan for the IDSTMA program remains using the following criteria:

1. Degree completion rate
2. Course evaluations of both the introductory course as well as the capstone course
 - a. Student feedback
 - b. Affiliate faculty/instructor feedback
3. Graduate outcomes
 - a. Graduate satisfaction with the degree and
 - b. Career influence of the degree