

## *Interdepartmental Program in Social Sciences*

**Degree Coordinator:** Dean *Elizabeth S. Grobsmith*, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences  
Office in Main 338, (435) 797-1195

**Degree offered:** Master of Social Sciences (MSS)

**Major Disciplines (specializations):** Economics, History, Human Resources Management, Human Resources Management with emphasis in Student Services Personnel Administration, and Sociology

**Minor Disciplines:** Anthropology, Business Administration, Instructional Technology, Economics, Family and Human Development, Geography and Earth Resources, History, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, and Management and Human Resources

### *Graduate Program*

#### *Administration*

The program is administered by a committee of the department heads (Management Committee) from the four major disciplines or their designees. The committee is chaired by annual rotation by one of the members of the committee, and reports to the Degree Coordinator. The Management Committee reviews policy and develops recommendations which are submitted to the Degree Coordinator for approval.

#### *Degree Description*

The social sciences are disciplines that have as a common objective the understanding of human behavior and social relationships. The MSS offers multidisciplinary graduate training for candidates desiring in-depth applied understanding of human performance, human environments, and/or the structuring of social, political, and economic systems. There are Plan B and Plan C options in the MSS Program. Students in Economics, History, and Sociology typically follow the Plan B option, while Human Resources Management students typically follow the Plan C option. The Plan B option requires a minimum of 30 credits and the Plan C option requires a minimum of 33 credits. Both options require a minimum of 15 credits in a major discipline plus a minimum of 15 credits from one of the following two tracks: *Track A:* a minimum of 15 credits from two approved minor areas, with at least two courses in each minor area. *Track B:* a minimum of 15 credits from an approved minor and a cluster, with at least two courses in the minor and two courses in the cluster. Courses counted in a cluster must be outside the selected major and minor. Three of the 30 credits required for the Plan B option must be thesis credits, but no more than 3 credits of thesis can be counted toward a degree. Plan C requires 33 credits of coursework with no thesis credit allowed. Departments may impose more rigorous requirements. A maximum of 3 credits may be earned either from readings/conferences or from independent research.

The MSS degree is primarily intended to prepare degree recipients for employment or advancement in social science-related occupations. Students interested in pursuing doctoral work should consider a Plan A Master of Science program.

#### *Admission Requirements*

See general admission requirements, pages 72-73. In addition, the faculty of each discipline determines whether to recommend to the graduate dean the acceptance of applicants. For further information, contact the Graduate Coordinator in the department of the proposed major.

#### *Specializations*

Program specializations and emphases and the qualifications for each are summarized below.

**Economics.** The areas of emphasis in Economics include Labor Economics, Economic History/Comparative Economic Systems, Business and Government, Economic Education, Environmental Economics, Trade and Development, and Rural Economic Development. Acceptable minor fields include any of the cooperating minor disciplines.

**History.** The MSS in History is designed for secondary teachers who want more training to certify in additional teaching fields. Acceptable minor fields include Instructional Technology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology/Anthropology.

**Human Resources Management.** Human Resources Management deals with those processes that provide, develop, and maintain a productive workforce in a dynamic and changing environment. Subject areas include human resource planning; recruiting; selection; placement; compensation and benefits; performance management; career planning, training, and development; labor relations; and ethical/legal employment practices. Individuals interested in a general management program are referred to the College of Business MBA Program.

**Sociology.** The MSS specialization in Sociology is well-suited to individuals with interdisciplinary interests. International Rural and Community Development is a currently well-developed emphasis within the Sociology specialization.

### ***Degree Requirements***

**Student Supervision.** For each student admitted, a supervisory committee is ordinarily appointed consisting of at least one faculty representative from the student's major discipline and (a) one from each of the minor disciplines, or (b) one from a minor discipline and one from a discipline associated with the cluster. Policies governing student supervision may vary from specialization to specialization.

**Plan C Culminating Experience.** Each major discipline has an integrative requirement toward the end of the student's program for the Plan C option. The requirement may include a comprehensive examination, a capstone course, and/or an integrative project.

**Plan B Research Paper.** Each Plan B student must submit a research paper for thesis credit in accordance with School of Graduate Studies and departmental requirements. Ordinarily, the Plan B paper is written in the major discipline, but in some cases, with the approval of the student's supervisory committee, it may be written in one of the minor disciplines. Information specific to each major discipline may be obtained by contacting the sponsoring department.

### ***Further Information***

Candidates interested in pursuing this degree program may obtain specific information by contacting the head of one of the participating departments, the School of Graduate Studies, or the dean of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.