

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES, M.A.

Overview

Program Description

The M.A. in Intercultural Studies (<https://www.biola.edu/degrees/g/intercultural-studies-ma/>) is designed to equip students both for careers in cross-cultural or multicultural environments and for ministries associated with spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ in cultures other than one's own. At the end of the program, graduates should be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate their capacity to live and work in environments or cultures different than their own;
2. Articulate a cross-cultural or international perspective with respect to their professional training (e.g., in teaching, medicine, business, or development);
3. Produce written studies and reports manifesting their familiarity with the analytical and research tools available (particularly in the social sciences) and demonstrate their abilities to assess and adapt their objectives and activities to the cultural realities of their working environments;
4. Communicate a clear understanding of the dynamic nature of the gospel, the spiritual and cultural traits of a growing church, the deeply intertwined relationship between the gospel and culture in which God's self-revelation was given in culture, how it is now communicated across cultures, and how it is being faithfully lived out in appropriate contextualized acts of allegiance to the God of creation; and
5. Manifest godliness of character, personal standards of integrity and morality, concern for human rights and justice, and a passion for the reconciliation of humanity with their Creator.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies (<https://www.biola.edu/degrees/g/intercultural-studies-ma/>), students will be able to:

1. Articulate principles for successful living and working in diverse environments and cultures (ULO 1 and 2).
2. Express an understanding of an international perspective on their experience in mono-cultural training (e.g. teaching, medicine, business) (ULO 1).
3. Demonstrate proficiency in research skills and writing that includes assessment and adaptation to specific cultural contexts (ULO 1).
4. Describe the dynamic nature of the Gospel, the growing church, and how it is contextualized and communicated across cultures (ULO 1 and 3).

Each Program Learning Outcome (PLO) listed above references at least one of the University Learning Outcomes (ULO 1, 2, 3), which may be found in the General Information section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/general-information/#UniversityLearningOutcomes>) of this catalog.

Graduation Requirements

1. Complete the required courses listed below.
2. Successfully pass a comprehensive examination over coursework.
3. Maintain a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
4. Meet with department advisor and a Graduate Graduation Counselor in the Office of the Registrar one year prior to graduation to declare intent to graduate. (See the Graduate Graduation Application section (<https://catalog.biola.edu/academic-policies/graduation-and-degree-conferral/graduate/#GraduateGraduationApplication>).

Program Requirements

Program Description

The M.A. in Intercultural Studies is a 39-credit program. For the qualified applicant with extensive undergraduate work in intercultural studies/missions, it may be reduced to a minimum of 30 credits.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Program Courses		
ISAN 761 or ISCL 711	Culture and Transformation Dynamics of the Religious Experience	3
ISCL 520 or ISCL 709	Interpersonal and Intercultural Adjustment Intercultural Communication	3
ISCL 742	History of the World Christian Movement	3
ISCL 750 or ISCL 751	Issues in Contextualization/Cross- Cultural Theology Theology of Mission	3
ISCL 695	Master of Arts Comprehensive Examination	0
Select one of the following:		3
ISAN 523	Ethnographic Research Methods	
ISAN 561	Economic Anthropology	
ISAN 751	Social Anthropology	
ISCL 779	Graduate Research in Intercultural Studies	
Bible/Theology Courses		
Students may select Bible/Theology courses from a wide range of courses taught by the faculty at Talbot School of Theology. Students with no formal biblical/theological training prior to entering the program must have the selection approved by the program director. Students may also select:		6
ISCL 701	Theology of Culture	
ISCL 722	Spiritual Conflicts in Cross-Cultural Context	
ISCL 724	Issues in Spiritual Warfare	
ISCL 744	Narrative in Scripture and Teaching	
ISCL 751	Theology of Mission	

ISCL 752	Acts: Biblical and Missiological	
ISCL 780	Topics in Biblical Theology from a Missiological Perspective	
Elective Courses		
Select 18 credits of advisor-approved electives ¹		18
Total Credits		39

¹ Students who do not have to take required electives are encouraged to choose a combination of electives most suitable for their career goals. Students may also choose to focus electives in areas of specialization such as anthropology, missiology, cross-cultural education, Bible and theology, Bible translation, linguistics, TESOL, church planting, cross-cultural health care, urban ministries, etc. Students desiring a graduate certificate in TESOL in conjunction with their intercultural studies degree must also apply to the Department of ALT.

Students who are not proficient in a second language will also be required to take one of the courses listed below as a required elective. (Proficiency standards for a second language will be determined by the M.A. advisor in consultation with intercultural studies faculty. See student handbook for standards.)

- ISAL 520
- ISAL 613

Students who have not previously taken a course in cultural anthropology will be required to take the course below as a required elective.

- ISAN 507