

Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Studies

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Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Studies (IGPS) Information

IGPS certificates, courses, and programs prepare students, scholars, and professionals to meet the demands of the increasingly complex, diverse, globally connected, and competitive worlds of work and civic engagement. Graduate certificates and the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies master's program invite students to integrate theory and practice, developing the requisite professional competencies in communication, teamwork, research, teaching, mentoring, academic advising, and leadership that support individual, organizational, and civic success.

Those interested in pursuing the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) degree (MA or MS) will find information about the program and how to apply on the IGS webpage at: [Master of Arts and Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies - Graduate School | UAB](#)

For information on graduate-level certificates, information can be found [here](#).

Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies – MS and MA degrees available

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies degree program (IGS) supports students seeking a graduate degree for which there is no established curriculum. Students combine two graduate certificate programs and complete a research to practice capstone project to earn a Master of Science or Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies.

Academic Advising - Graduate Certificate

The graduate certificate in **Academic Advising (AADV)** provides current and prospective academic advisors with the knowledge, skills, and competencies required to advance their academic advising practices. Students enrolled in the academic advising graduate certificate will create an advising philosophy, develop assessment skills, advance their knowledge on inclusion, access, and advocacy, and recognize and apply student development theories. Graduates will be prepared to effectively serve in formal academic advising roles and advising adjacent roles

in areas such as study abroad, housing, career advising, and student affairs.

Courses in the Academic Advising certificate are offered in the standard letter grading format and may be incorporated into the IGS degree. The program is also available as a track in the [Master of Science in Higher Education Administration](#).

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Advocacy - Graduate Certificate

The graduate certificate in **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Advocacy (DEIA)** provides learners with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for advancing personal, social, and cultural initiatives that combat interpersonal and systemic inequities as well as foster cultures of inclusion and justice. Knowledge and skills developed in the program will be applicable to any organizational or civic context, including post-secondary education institutions, nonprofits and politically minded organizations, health care providers, as well as the business and industry sectors.

Courses in the DEIA graduate certificate are offered in the standard letter grading format and may be incorporated into the IGS degree.

Leadership & Professional Development - Graduate Certificate

The certificate in **Leadership and Professional Development (LEAD)** equips students with a comprehensive foundation in leadership and professional development, preparing them to navigate complex professional and personal contexts. Program participants will gain the expertise in leadership theories, team building, strategies for professional development, and approaches to organizational change.

Courses in the LEAD graduate certificate are offered in the standard letter grading format and may be incorporated into the IGS degree.

Mentoring & Leadership - Graduate Certificate

The **Mentoring and Leadership (MENT)** certificate develops the necessary knowledge and skills for promoting one's own and other's professional effectiveness and the ability to be an effective mentor and mentee. Program participants will learn how to design effective mentoring relationships, prepare professional growth plans, reflect on the critical decisions in mentoring, and develop capacities for professional effectiveness.

Courses in the Mentoring and Leadership graduate certificate are offered in the standard letter grading format; the Mentoring Certificate may be incorporated into the Masters in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) degree.

Research Communication - Graduate Certificate

The graduate certificate in **Research Communication (RECM)** provides foundational knowledge and applicable experience in effectively communicating research and critical research findings to academic, professional, and public audiences using different communicative platforms. The RECM certificate focuses on developing current UAB graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and employees in both science and non-science fields to learn how to effectively communicate

research and research findings. The certificate offers presentation and discussion skills courses, academic writing, grant writing, writing for broad audiences, and more.

Courses in the RECM graduate certificate are offered in standard letter grading format; the Research Communication certificate may be incorporated into the IGS degree.

Research Laboratory Management - Graduate Certificate

The **Research Laboratory Management (RLM)** graduate certificate prepares graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and staff who are engaged in science-related research to effectively lead and manage all aspects of an active scientific laboratory. Managing laboratory needs, such as budgetary, regulatory, safety compliance, is essential for career success in today's research marketplace.

Courses in the Research Laboratory Management graduate certificate are offered as pass/no pass and the standard letter grading formats. The Research Lab Management certificate may be incorporated into the IGS degree; standard letter grade courses may be incorporated into the IGS degree.

Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning - Graduate Certificate

The graduate certificate in **Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (TLHE)** equips graduate and postgraduate students with knowledge and skills to enhance student learning in higher education environments and institutions. The program is interdisciplinary, examining teaching strategies, learning theory, and assessment relevant to teaching in all disciplines by combining theoretical knowledge with practical application.

Courses in TLHE graduate certificate are offered in the standard letter grading format and may be incorporated into the IGS degree.

This certificate is not a credential for teacher certification or licensure.

Admissions

For new students – click [here](#) to complete the UAB Graduate School Application.

Registration

For more information on how to register for classes, visit [here](#).

Graduate Certificate in Academic Advising

The graduate certificate in **Academic Advising (AADV)** provides current and prospective academic advisors with the knowledge, skills, and competencies required to advance their academic advising practices. Students enrolled in the academic advising graduate certificate will create an advising philosophy, develop assessment skills, advance their knowledge on inclusion, access, and advocacy, and recognize and apply student development theories. Graduates will be prepared to effectively serve in formal academic advising roles and advising adjacent roles in areas such as study abroad, housing, career advising, and student affairs.

Courses in the Academic Advising certificate are offered in the standard letter grading format and may be incorporated into the IGS degree. The program is also available as a track in the [Master of Science in Higher Education Administration](#).

Requirements	Hours
Core Classes	12
AADV 600 Academic Advising Foundations	
AADV 610 Assessment in Academic Advising ¹	
AADV 620 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Advocacy in Academic Advising	
HEA 660 College Student Development	
Electives	3
AADV 621 Advising Hidden and Targeted Populations	
AADV 622 Academic Advising Administration	
AADV 630 Special Topics Seminar in Academic Advising	
AADV 631 Academic Advising and Transfer Students	
Total Hours	15

¹ AADV 610 prerequisite: AADV 600

Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Professional Development

The certificate in **Leadership and Professional Development (LEAD)** equips students with a comprehensive foundation in leadership and professional development, preparing them to navigate complex professional and personal contexts. Program participants will gain the expertise in leadership theories, team building, strategies for professional development, and approaches to organizational change.

Courses in the LEAD graduate certificate are offered in the standard letter grading format and may be incorporated into the Master's in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) degree.

Requirements

Requirements	Hours
Core Courses	15
LEAD 500 Introduction to Leadership Theory and Behavior	
LEAD 520 Ethics in the Workplace	
LEAD 540 Team Development and Dynamics	
LEAD 590 Addressing Leadership Challenges	
Total Hours	15

Graduate Certificate in Mentoring and Leadership

The **Mentoring and Leadership (MENT)** certificate develops the necessary knowledge and skills for promoting one's own and other's professional effectiveness and the ability to be an effective mentor and mentee. Program participants will learn how to design effective mentoring relationships, prepare professional growth plans, reflect on the critical decisions in mentoring, and develop capacities for professional effectiveness.

Courses in the Mentoring and Leadership graduate certificate are offered in the standard letter grading format; the Mentoring Certificate may be incorporated into the Master's in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) degree.

Requirements	Hours
Core Courses	8
MENT 719 Introduction to Mentoring and Leadership	
MENT 713 Mentoring 101	
GRD 735 Leadership 101	
GRD 745 Communication and Diversity Leadership	
Electives	7
Choose seven (7) credit hours from the following electives:	
MENT 730 Developing and Managing Your Professional Image	
GRD 706 Grants and Fellowships 101	
RECM 707 Presenting Effectively	
RECM 701 Oral and Visual Communication	
RECM 722 Storytelling and Narratives for Research Communication	
RECM 727 Writing & Reviewing Research	
RECM 729 Writing a Journal Article in 12 Weeks	
Total Hours	15

Graduate Certificate in Research Communication

The graduate certificate in **Research Communication (RECM)** provides foundational knowledge and applicable experience in effectively communicating research and critical research findings to academic, professional, and public audiences using different communicative platforms. The RECM certificate focuses on developing current UAB graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and employees in both science and non-science fields to learn how to effectively communicate research and research findings. The certificate offers presentation and discussion skills courses, academic writing, grant writing, writing for broad audiences, and more.

Courses in the RECM graduate certificate are offered in standard letter grading format; the Research Communication certificate may be incorporated into the Master's in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) degree.

Requirements	Hours
Core Courses	9
RECM 701 Oral and Visual Communication	
RECM 722 Storytelling and Narratives for Research Communication	
RECM 739 Research Communication Portfolio	
Electives	6
Recommended electives: Choose six (6) Credit Hours	
GRD 709 Writing Fellowships	
RECM 727 Writing & Reviewing Research	
RECM 729 Writing a Journal Article in 12 Weeks	
RECM 745 Research Communication and Diverse Audiences	
Total Hours	15

Graduate Certificate in Research Lab Management

The **Research Laboratory Management (RLM)** graduate certificate prepares graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and staff who are engaged in science-related research to effectively lead and manage all aspects of an active scientific laboratory. Managing laboratory needs, such as budgetary, regulatory, safety compliance, is essential for career success in today's research marketplace.

Courses in the Research Laboratory Management graduate certificate are offered as pass/no pass and the standard letter grading formats. The Research Lab Management certificate may be incorporated into the IGS degree; standard letter grade courses may be incorporated into the Master's in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) degree.

Requirements	Hours
Core Coursework	9
RLM 773 Research Lab Management	
RLM 774 Introduction to Regulatory Compliance	
RLM 775 Research Lab Safety	
GRD 706 Grants and Fellowships 101	
MBA 631 Management and Organizations	
Electives	6
Choose six (6) credit hours from the following recommended elective courses:	
MBA 601 Accounting and Finance for Managers	
RECM 701 Oral and Visual Communication	
MENT 719 Introduction to Mentoring and Leadership	
RECM 745 Research Communication and Diverse Audiences	
RECM 727 Writing & Reviewing Research	
GRD 709 Writing Fellowships	
Total Hours	15