

INDIVIDUAL OPTION, M.A.

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Degree offered: Master of Arts

Individual option is a graduate degree program built on 30 years of experience in individualized learning. The program offers students the opportunity to design a degree consistent with their own educational goals, using available institutional and area resources. The program's major purpose is to serve students whose needs and objectives are best met by combinations of courses or mixes of learning formats not available through established curricula.

The program structure emphasizes the integration of key learning categories with a variety of instructional methods to form a well-rounded and individualized academic experience. Through integrating these categories with customized learning activities, the individual option program assists learners to deepen their understandings of the values, meanings, concerns, choices, and commitments that are basic to the quality of life.

On entering the program, students design individualized degree proposals for a course of study consistent with their particular goals, needs, and inter-

ests. Self-assessment, independent study, multidisciplinary courses/studies, and credit for prior learning assessment are all course work alternatives that may be integrated within individual curricula. Student degree proposals meet the interdisciplinary goals of the program while specializing in an area such as human resource development, global education, women's studies, African-American studies, technology and education, or society and the law.

Contact: Information about the individual option program is available at (217) 206-6962. Information can also be requested at ino@uis.edu.

ADMISSION

Admission to the graduate program is limited due to the individualized nature of the degree process. In addition to applying to UIS, students are required to complete a separate application process that includes an INO application form, a personal statement, two letters of reference, and an interview with an INO faculty member. Deadlines: October 15 for spring semes-

ter, March 15 for summer term, and April 15 for fall semester. Admissions are continuous until an incoming class is filled.

Students are conditionally admitted to the INO program until they successfully complete INO 501 Graduate Colloquium and their degree committees approve their degree proposals. Students must obtain committee approval within the semester following completion of INO 501.

If a graduate applicant has an undergraduate grade-point average of less than 2.50, full admission to the program requires the completion of eight hours of course work at the graduate level with grades of B or better. These hours must be completed before enrolling in INO 501. Graduate students may count a maximum of 12 semester hours in courses taken before they began the INO program.

GRADING POLICY

Campus policy allows students to choose a traditional grading scale or a credit/no credit option for each course. The INO program conforms to this policy in all



irected, autonomous learner. Students design effective learning experiences, organize learning resources, and design a graduate curriculum.

INO 521 Liberal and Integrative Studies (2 Hrs.)

To be taken as the final course prior to closure project. Application of the principles of integration. Students prepare a paper relating learning experiences to common themes or issues and design a master's project or thesis. Prerequisite: INO 501.

***INO 550 Master's Project (1 to 8 Hrs.)**

Closure project or thesis (INO 560) required of all M.A. candidates to demonstrate accomplishment and mastery of a chosen area of study. The project is an application of theories and concepts and often involves an off-campus activity. The purpose of the project may be to create a useful and/or aesthetic product that can meet a need for

a particular audience outside the university. Product needs to include a supplemental academic essay. Prerequisite: INO 521.

***INO 560 Thesis (1 to 8 Hrs.)**

Closure project (INO 550) or thesis required of all M.A. candidates to demonstrate accomplishment and mastery of a chosen area of study. The thesis is a major quantitative or qualitative research and writing project based in one of the academic disciplines in the student's course of study. Prerequisite: INO 521.

INO 580 Individual Field Project (2 to 12 Hrs.)

To be taken as described in individual degree proposals. Experiential learning project must be directly applicable to the student's degree proposal. Field experience journal and formal presentation of project results may be re-

quired. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours. Requires an independent study contract with a faculty adviser. Prerequisite: INO 501.

INO 599 Independent Study: Tutorial (2 to 12 Hrs.)

To be taken as described in individual degree proposals. Readings or research on trends and current issues in the student's area of study. In consultation with faculty, students define topics integral to satisfying their self-assessed learning needs. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 hours. Requires an independent study contract with a faculty adviser. Prerequisite: INO 501.

**Note: If the project or thesis is not completed by the end of the initial semester of enrollment, students must register for one hour on an audit basis in all subsequent semesters until the project or thesis is completed.*

