

Individualized Master of Arts (IMAP)

Transform Your Passion into Expertise

This customizable education is tailored to your personal and professional goals. It combines multiple fields for a broader perspective, providing flexibility, specialization and skill development. This degree helps you advance your career and connect with a diverse network of peers. Enjoy academic freedom and pursue your passions while developing innovative solutions to complex problems.



A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a purple polo shirt with "PACHECO PANTHERS" and a logo on the chest, is sitting at a desk and working on a silver laptop. She is looking down at the screen with a focused expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing a white chair and some papers on the desk.

Pursuing an Individualized Master of Arts degree offers numerous advantages tailored to your unique needs and aspirations.

- ▶ **Customization:** Tailor your coursework to match your unique career goals and interests.
- ▶ **Interdisciplinary Learning:** Combine multiple fields of study to gain a broader perspective.
- ▶ **Specialization:** Focus on niche areas not typically covered in traditional M.A. programs.
- ▶ **Academic Freedom:** Enjoy the autonomy to pursue your passions and academic interests without the constraints of a rigid curriculum.
- ▶ **Innovation:** Develop creative solutions to complex problems by integrating different disciplines.
- ▶ **Career Advancement:** Enhance your qualifications and stand out in a competitive job market.
- ▶ **Networking:** Connect with a diverse group of peers and professionals from different fields.
- ▶ **Skill Development:** Gain a diverse set of skills that are adaptable to various industries.
- ▶ **Personal Growth:** Engage in self-directed learning that promotes personal and intellectual development.



Program Highlights

The Individualized Master of Arts Program (IMAP) is intended to provide a structure for master's-level study in areas where the university has significant strengths but does not offer a formal program. It also makes it possible for students to pursue interdisciplinary graduate degrees.

To gain expertise and an appropriate selection of courses, the IMAP degree draws upon resources outside of the university. It offers maximum flexibility, combining taught courses, independent study or research, seminars and other approved experiences. The overall content of the program is negotiated with a faculty advisor.

Unit Count of Program: 36-40

Program Structure

The IMAP degree consists of a minimum of 36-40 units that constitute a coherent disciplinary or interdisciplinary focus. At least 3 units must be in biblical/theological studies, or a related area that integrates questions of philosophy and/or values in the field of study, and 4 units of thesis or equivalent.

Students will work with their advisor to formulate a study plan based on specified requirements. The structure and content of the program is negotiated with the faculty advisor and may consist of a combination of taught courses, independent study or research, tutorials, seminars or supervised/other field experiences. This plan will need to receive final approval from the IMAP Council.

Application and Admission Information

To be considered for admission to the program please submit the following items:

- ☐ **Completed Application for Admission:** fpu.edu/applygrad
- ☐ **Official college/university transcript(s)** verifying receipt of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution and any post-baccalaureate work.
 - Applicants to the IMAP are expected to have sufficient background in proposed areas of study.
 - Transcripts can be sent electronically by your institution to trans.evaluator@fresno.edu or via mail in an envelope sealed by your institution to:

Fresno Pacific University
Office of the Registrar
1717 S. Chestnut Ave.
Fresno, CA 93702
- ☐ **If your cumulative GPA** for your bachelor's degree is below a 2.75 (4.0 scale), a letter of explanation is required.
 - If a master's degree has already been attained, the GPA requirement is waived.
- ☐ **A maximum of 12 units** may be approved for transfer from other accredited (or equivalent) graduate programs and must be relevant to the program of study being undertaken.
- ☐ **No course may be more than 10 years old** at the time of completion of the IMAP.
- ☐ **Reference Forms** – Two references are required for the Individualized Master of Arts program. The references should attest to your professional qualities and your academic qualifications, noting your ability to complete graduate-level work.
 - After you submit your application, your listed references will be contacted via email with a link to provide their recommendation.
- ☐ **Statement of Intent** – Provide a written statement explaining your interest in the program, long-term goals and your experience in the field.



- ❑ **Preliminary Proposed Course of Study** – Applicants must prepare a preliminary proposal of study (two-three pages long) that includes their proposed objectives, a proposed concentration, a summary of their preliminary proposal of study and of their background for study in the proposed areas.
- ❑ **Preliminary Program Interview** – After submitting your application materials including transcripts, a representative will contact you to schedule an interview. During this meeting students should be prepared to discuss:
 - Objectives and purpose of the proposed study.
 - Area of concentration: Define the specific field of study within the broader objectives. Provide a tentative title that reflects academic interests.
 - Key questions: What are some of the key questions to explore? Identify some of the major areas (or subjects) in which to read. Are there particular writers to study or specific courses to take?
 - Qualifications and background: Describe qualifications or skills brought to the study to aid success in the program; for example, previous studies, work experiences, etc.
 - Culminating experience: What are your ideas about the nature or content of a thesis or project (required for all IMAP students)?
- ❑ **Writing sample** – Provide a short paper (one-two pages in length) showing proficiency to write at an academic level.
- ❑ **International applicants** must submit additional documentation including English Proficiency Score (TOEFL=minimum of 550 PBT or 79 iBT, IELTS=6.5), copy of passport, visa information and a statement of financial support.

View requirements and additional program information at fpu.edu/catalog.

View our State Professional Licensing and Certificate Disclosure at fpu.edu/about/disclosure-documents.



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