



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: T. Chris Riley-Tillman, Provost and Executive Vice President

SUBJECT: Rename Doctor of Philosophy – Individual Interdisciplinary Program

DATE: December 10, 2025

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The attached proposal from the Graduate School to rename the Doctor of Philosophy – Individual Interdisciplinary program to Doctor of Philosophy – Interdisciplinary Studies has been reviewed by the Provost’s Office and our internal review committee. After careful consideration, we support the proposal.

The proposed name change aims to provide clarity and better convey the nature and value of the degree, particularly to employers. Additionally, the WSU Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies degree was approved by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities earlier this year. Uniformity in the nomenclature of graduate programs will enhance clarity and consistency. The proposed name change does not reflect any significant shift in curriculum or focus.

In addition to the program name change, the Graduate School also lists optional plan names in the proposal. Approval of plan names will be completed via a major curricular change process, not the degree change process; however, the plans were included in the proposal to provide full context. If approved, the proposed plan names would be optional and would appear on diplomas and transcripts only.

The Graduate Education Council supports this proposal. We judge the proposal ready for the Senate review process.