

# Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs

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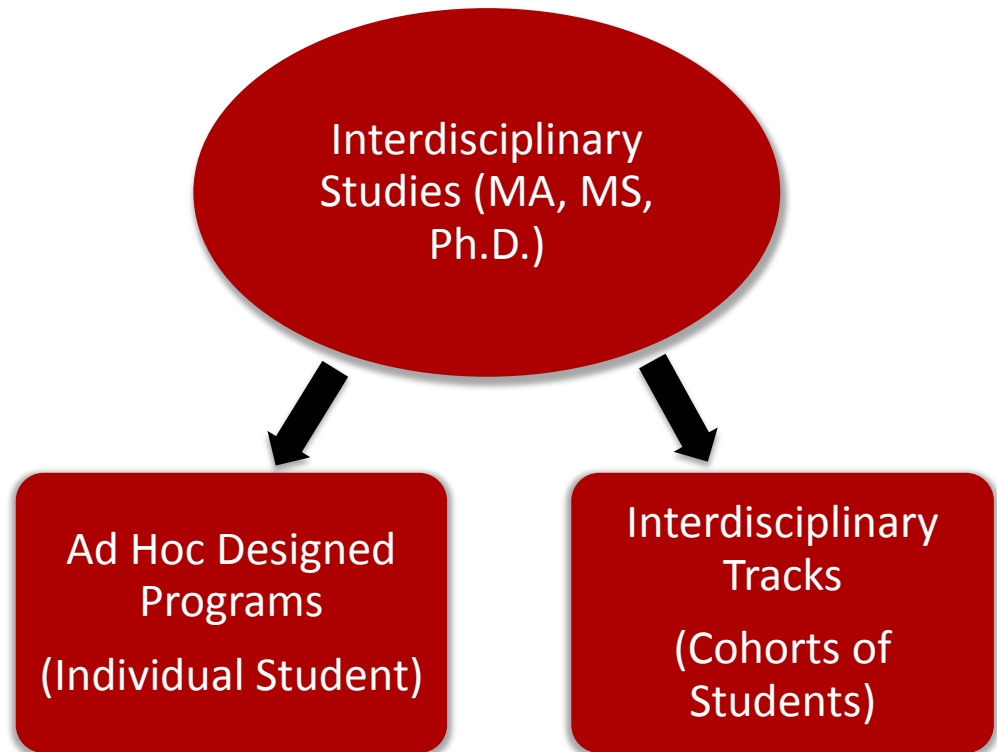
University of Louisville

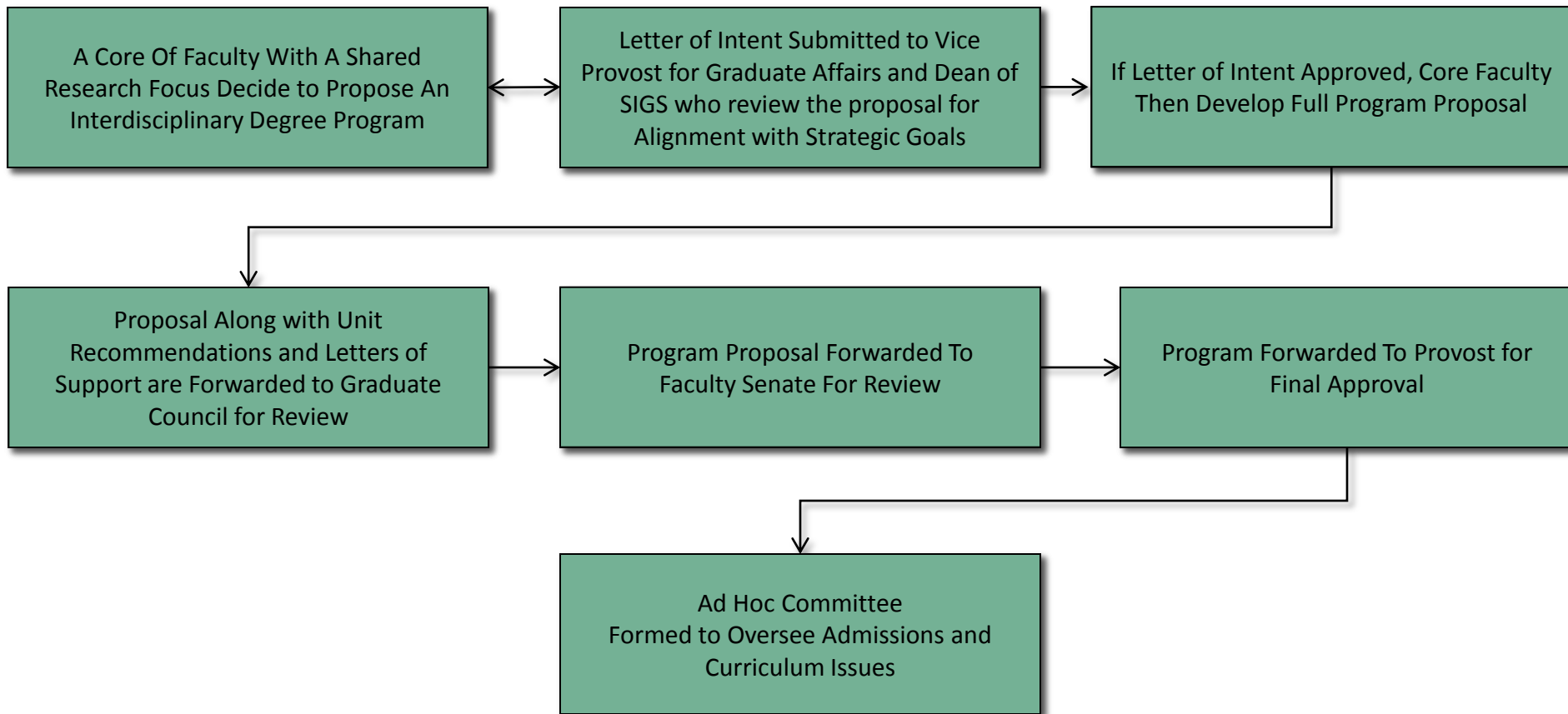


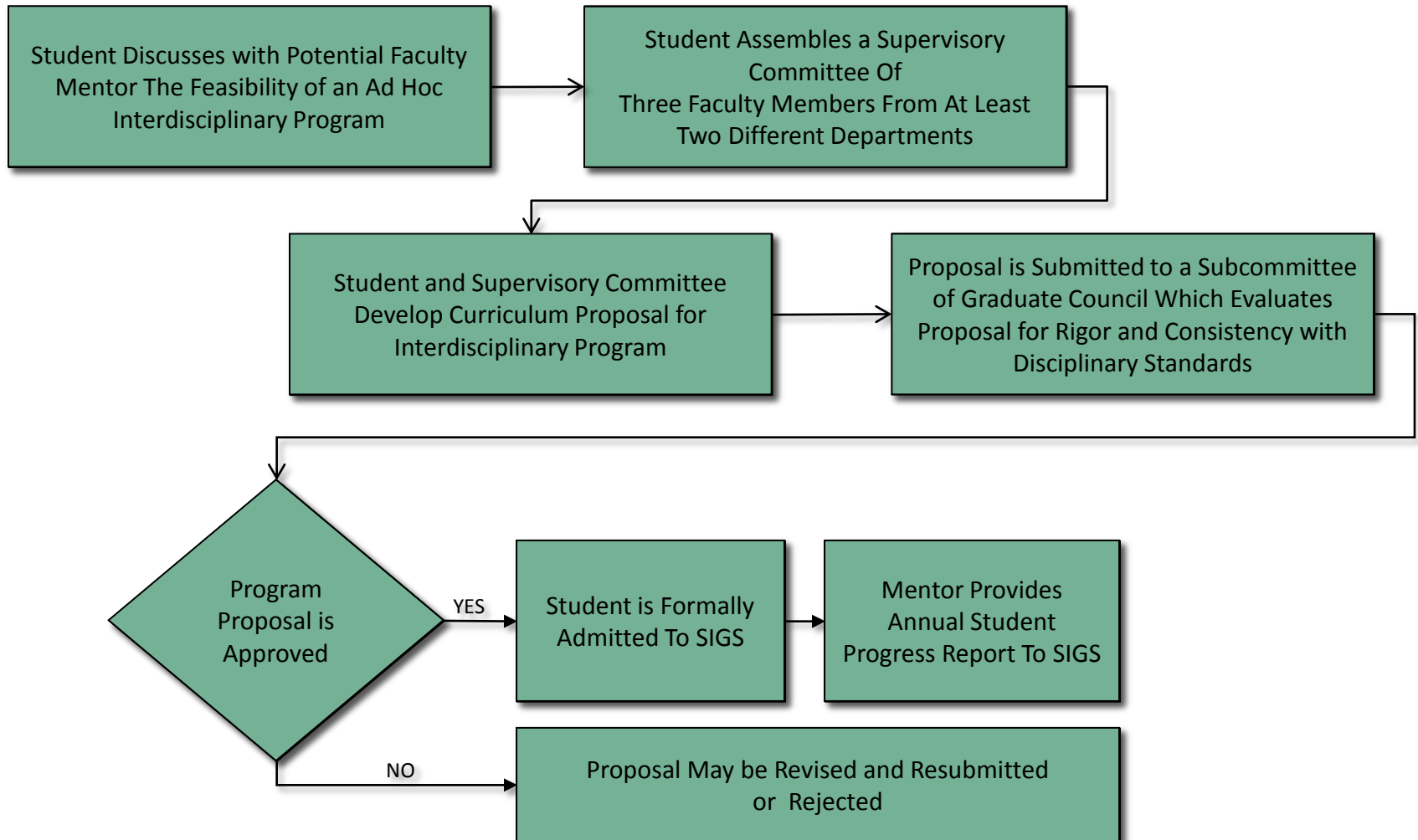
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- The University of Louisville is comprised of 12 Schools and Colleges, offering 35 doctoral and 76 master's degrees.
- In 2008 the Graduate School was re-organized with the following structural consequences:
  - Graduate student enrollment was decentralized – students now enroll in one of the university's 12 units instead of the Graduate School
  - The name of the unit was changed to the *School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies (SIGS)* to reflect a strategic initiative to foster interdisciplinary graduate programs
  - SIGSs now enrolls only students in Interdisciplinary Studies programs
  - The Graduate Council, housed in SIGS, sets minimum guidelines for graduate education for the entire campus, but also serves as the oversight body for interdisciplinary programs

- The School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies became the enrollment unit for the Interdisciplinary Studies Program and the position of Director of Interdisciplinary Studies was created to provide oversight for interdisciplinary programs
- Three degrees are available under the program:
  - Master of Arts
  - Master of Science
  - Doctor of Philosophy







- **Doctoral Program Bioinformatics** (*Faculty from Math, Public Health, Computer Science, Medicine*)
- **Master of Arts in Bioethics and Medical Humanities** (*Faculty from Philosophy, Law and Medicine*)
- **Doctoral Program in Translational Neuroscience** (*Under review: Faculty from Medicine, Biology, Psychology*)
- **Master of Arts in Urban Sustainability** (*Under review: Faculty from Law, Business, Urban and Public Affairs*)

- **“Factors Affecting Participation In U.S. Health Information Exchange Networks”** (*Public Health, Business and Sociology*)
- **“Incidence of Art Theft and Vandalism in the Context of Museum Security”** (*Justice Administration and Art History*)
- **“The Role of Cultural Awareness in Second Language Learning”** (*Communications and Classical and Modern Languages*)

- Standing graduate programs may view interdisciplinary tracks as a threat to enrollment if faculty from the program also participate in an Interdisciplinary Track
  - Solution: The Office of the Institutional Research keeps an internal tally of degree productivity and will “credit” mentor’s department for each student that graduates from an interdisciplinary program
  
- Standing graduate programs may view interdisciplinary tracks as a threat to resources
  - Solution: SIGS has allocated a restricted number of fellowship lines to the Interdisciplinary Tracks
  
- Faculty may be concerned with assuring their participation in an interdisciplinary program is recognized by the department chair
  - Department chairs must be willing to acknowledge faculty participation in an interdisciplinary program on the faculty member’s Annual Work Plan
  
- Role of “matchmaker” important to help interested parties overcome perceived obstacles