Multidisciplinary Studies Degree Program

Degree Offered

• Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
• Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies (B.MdS.)

The Multidisciplinary Studies degree program (MDS) is comprised of three related minors. The program does not limit students to courses of study in a particular college or school, but rather stresses the importance of breadth of knowledge and cross-disciplinary communication. MDS emphasizes flexibility and problem solving. Students will learn to use specialized knowledge from individual disciplines to analyze problems from divergent perspectives. Students will also apply multidisciplinary techniques to communicate the strengths of their self-chosen course of study.

An MDS student chooses three minor areas and must demonstrate how these fields of study work together toward his/her educational and/or career goals. For example, a student may choose the areas of business administration, sport and exercise psychology, and professional writing and editing, with the goal of a career in sports and special events or marketing/coordinating. MDS students participate in a capstone during their final semester, incorporating their three disciplines into a senior project, presentation, and paper.

Students who earn a degree in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences must complete the University requirements, the College requirements for their specific degree program, and their major requirements.

Minors

All students have the possibility of earning one or more minors; view a list of all available minors and their requirements (http://catalog.wvu.edu/archivedcatalog/2014-15/undergraduate/minors) here. Please note that students may not earn a minor in their major field. MDS students may add a fourth minor to complement their three core minors.

Certificate of Global Engagement

Students in the Eberly College, regardless of their major, can earn a Certificate of Global Engagement. Completion of the Certificate demonstrates the student’s knowledge of diverse cultures, as well as the ability to communicate and interact effectively with people of different cultural backgrounds. Students will be required to apply their knowledge of contemporary issues and global social contexts to their course work and their broader citizenship. For details regarding Certificate requirements, please visit the Eberly College page (http://catalog.wvu.edu/archivedcatalog/2014-15/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/#otherdegreeexttext).

MDS Graduates

The breadth of study available to MDS students empowers them to be successful in any field they choose. Multidisciplinary Studies degree holders are flourishing in business, teaching, entrepreneurial endeavors, nursing, and public and health administration. They are earning advanced degrees in social work, business administration, and law school. Some are even striving to succeed as sports agents or playing professional sports. The flexibility of the degree ensures that students are prepared for success in today’s rapidly changing workforce.

FACULTY

COORDINATOR
• Evan Widders - Ph.D. (University of California)

CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
• Evan Widders - Ph.D. (University of California)

TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
• Benjamin Brooks - Ph.D. (University of Cincinnati)
  MDS and Leadership Studies
• Clarissa Estep - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  MDS and Political Science
• Renee Nicholson - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)
• Carol Zwickel - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  MDS and Humanities

INSTRUCTORS
• Andrea Soccorsi - M.A. (West Virginia University)
Admission

Admission to the program is possible after completion of twenty-nine credit hours with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0. Students may not declare the MDS degree before completing twenty-nine credit hours. Students may enroll in MDS 199 before they are admitted to the degree program.

Once students are admitted to the MDS program, they should declare their three minors.

In MDS, advisors are assigned to students by last name. MDS students keep the same adviser until they graduate from the program.

• Last name begins with A-CO, Andrea Soccorsi, room 441 Stansbury Hall.
• Last name begins with CP-HI, Clarissa Estep, room 462 Stansbury Hall.
• Last name begins with HJ-MC, Carol Zwickel, room 458 Stansbury Hall.
• Last name begins with MD-SE, Benjamin Brooks, room 443 Stansbury Hall.
• Last name begins with SF-Z, Evan Widders, room 466 Stansbury Hall.
• Students taking only online coursework are advised by Renee Nicholson, room 456 Stansbury Hall.

Degree Requirements for Multidisciplinary Studies (BMDS or B.A. in MDS)

The program offers two different Bachelor’s Degrees:

• Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies (B.A. in M.D.S). Students in the B.A. MDS must complete the WVU General Education Curriculum requirements, College B.A. requirements, programmatic requirements, and electives to total 120 hours. For complete details on these requirements, visit the B.A. Degrees tab on the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (http://catalog.wvu.edu/archivedcatalog/2014-15/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/#bachelorofartstext) page.
• Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies (B.M.D.S.). Students in the B.M.D.S. must complete the WVU General Education Curriculum requirements, programmatic requirements, and electives to total 120 hours.

Program Requirements for Multidisciplinary Studies (BMDS or B.A. in MDS)

• Course Requirements: Minor courses may not be used to satisfy the General Education Curriculum requirements. Each minor must consist of at least fifteen unique credits. Students must complete at least sixty credit hours of coursework at the 200 level or above. At the latest, the required MDS orientation course, MDS 199, must be completed the semester before taking MDS 489.
• Calculation of the GPA in the Major: Students must obtain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0, with grade of C- or better in all courses counted toward the minors.
• Writing Course Requirement: The General Education Curriculum requires the successful completion of a writing course ("W"). Students in the MDS program must complete MDS 489 to satisfy their writing requirement.
• Capstone Requirement: The General Education Curriculum requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. Students in the MDS program must complete MDS 489 with a grade of C- or better during their final year.
• Benchmark expectations: Students in the MDS program must maintain a 2.0 GPA. MDS 199 must be completed by the 2nd semester in the program. Students should make progress toward their plan of study, reviewed each semester. All majors must meet with an MDS program adviser each semester. Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their major.

GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEC requirement. (http://registrar.wvu.edu/current_students/general_education_curriculum)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEC requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GECs you will need to select.

General Education Curriculum

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 101 &amp; ENGL 102 or ENGL 103</td>
<td>Composition And Rhetoric and Accelerated Academic Writing</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEC 2A - Mathematics</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEC 2B - Natural and Physical Science</td>
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<td>7-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEC 2C - Additional GEC 2A, B or C</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEC 3 - The Past and Its Traditions</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEC 4 - Issues of Contemporary Society</td>
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### UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

**WVUE 191**
- First Year Seminar

GEC (credit hours may vary based on selected options)

### COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Foreign Language *

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### MDS Requirements
- MDS 199 Orientation to MDS

#### Minor One
- 15

#### Minor Two
- 15

#### Minor Three
- 15

#### Capstone Requirement
- 3

**MDS 489** Capstone

### GENERAL ELECTIVES *
- Number of electives may vary depending on options selected

**Total Hours** 120

*Students in the Bachelor of Arts Program should replace 12 credits of general electives with the courses applied to their Foreign Language requirement.*

### Suggested Plan of Study for the Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies or the Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies

The plan below illustrates a student in BMDS with minors in History, Psychology, and Communication Studies.

#### First Year

**Fall**
- **Hours Spring**
- **Hours**
- WVUE 191
- 1 ENGL 101
- 3
- GEC Objective 2A
- 3 GEC Objective 2B
- 4
- GEC Objective 3-9
- 3 GEC Objective (Select from objectives 3-9)
- 3
- Foreign Language 101 (or General Elective)
- 3 STAT 211
- 3
- General Elective
- 5 Foreign Language 102 (or General Elective)
- General Electives
- 2
- **15**

**Second Year**

**Fall**
- **Hours Spring**
- **Hours**
- PSYC 101
- 3 ENGL 102
- 3
- GEC Objective 2B
- 3 PSYC 241
- 3
- GEC Objective 3-9
- 6 GEC Objective 2C
- 3
- Foreign Language 203 (or General Elective)
- 3 GEC Objective 3-9
- 3
- Foreign Language 204 (or General Elective)
- **15**

**Third Year**

**Fall**
- **Hours Spring**
- **Hours**
- MDS 199
- 2 COMM 306
- 3
- COMM 105
- 3 HIST 152
- 3
### Multidisciplinary Studies Degree Program

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 202</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>GEC 3-9 or General Elective</td>
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**Fourth Year**

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<tr>
<td>PSYC 382</td>
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<td>HIST 412</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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Total credit hours: 120

### COURSES

**MDS 101. Orientation to RBA. 1 Hour.**
For students beginning the Regents Bachelor of Arts degree program. Orientation to curriculum, policies, benefits, and academic merits of the RBA to help students take advantage of its unique features.

**MDS 199. Orientation to MDS. 1-2 Hours.**
Orientation to degree programs and requirements, departmental resources, curriculum options, student responsibilities and opportunities.

**MDS 293A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.**
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

**MDS 389. Interdisciplinary Rsrch Method. 3 Hours.**
PR: MDS 199. Instructs students to approach research from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students will develop skill in applying methodologies and principles from more than one academic discipline to frame perspectives and conduct research. The final research project will address a political, economic, social, scientific, or humanitarian issue with relevance to the student’s post-graduate career or academic aspirations using interdisciplinary tools and analysis.

**MDS 401. RBA Portfolio Development. 1 Hour.**
PR: ENGL 101 or equivalent. To prepare RBA students who plan to petition for college equivalent credits through the portfolio option, including course selection, verifications and narratives.

**MDS 489. Capstone. 3 Hours.**
PR: MDS 199 with a minimum grade of C- and Senior Status. The MDS capstone instructs students on the methods and advantages of a multidisciplinary education. The capstone includes a community-service service learning project.

**MDS 490. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.**
PR: Consent. Teaching practice as a tutor or assistant.

**MDS 491. Professional Field Experience. 1-18 Hours.**
PR: Consent. (May be repeated up to a maximum of 18 hours.) Prearranged experiential learning program, to be planned, supervised, and evaluated for credit by faculty and field supervisors. Involves temporary placement with public or private enterprise for professional competence development.

**MDS 492A-Z. Directed Study. 1-3 Hours.**
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

**MDS 493A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.**
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

**MDS 494A-Z. Seminar. 1-3 Hours.**
PR: Consent. Presentation and discussion of topics of mutual concern to students and faculty.

**MDS 495. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.**
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

**MDS 496. Senior Thesis. 1-3 Hours.**
PR: Consent.

**MDS 497. Research. 1-6 Hours.**
Independent research projects.

**MDS 498A-Z. Honors. 1-3 Hours.**
PR: Students in Honors Program and consent by the honors director. Independent reading, study or research.