

# Eberly College of Arts and Sciences

---

The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University's largest college, has approximately 460 faculty in academic departments and program areas in the following: literature and the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and mathematics and natural sciences. These departments occupy twelve buildings on the Downtown campus and include programs that lead to master's degrees in twenty fields and doctoral degrees in twelve fields. Many of the faculty have earned distinguished national and international reputations and have been honored for excellence in teaching, research, and service. Their awards not only acknowledge extreme dedication but also accentuate the relationship between the faculty and students. Graduate students often collaborate with faculty on specialized research projects which lead to publications in national and international journals.

## Degrees Offered

Graduate programs leading to a master's degree are available in biology, chemistry, communication studies, english, world languages, forensic and investigative science, geography, geology, history, legal studies, liberal arts, mathematics, physics, psychology, public administration, social work, sociology and anthropology, and statistics. Each program prepares students for further study or for productive roles in professional environments. Information concerning graduate programs in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences may be obtained by contacting the Graduate Records Assistant, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, 201 Woodburn Hall, West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6286, Morgantown, WV 26505-6286; telephone (304) 293-4611.

- Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy in Biology
- Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry
- Master of Arts, Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies
- Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, Doctor of Philosophy in English
- Master of Arts in Foreign Languages
- Master of Science in Forensic Science
- Master of Arts, Doctor of Philosophy in Geography
- Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy in Geology
- Master of Arts in History and Public History, Doctor of Philosophy in History
- Master of Legal Studies
- Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics
- Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy in Physics
- Master of Arts, Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science
- Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Social Work
- Master of Arts, Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology and Anthropology
- Master of Science in Statistics

The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences offers doctoral programs in biology, chemistry, communication studies, english, geography, geology, history, mathematics, physics, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics. Available research or teaching concentrations are as follows:

- Biology—ecology and evolutionary biology, forensic biology, genetics and genome biology, and neurobiology and endocrinology
  - Chemistry—analytical, biological, inorganic, organic, and physical
  - Communication studies—instructional, interpersonal, and organizational
  - English—literature
  - Geography—human geography, environmental geography, geographic information science
  - Geology—energy geology, geophysics, hydrogeology, environmental geology
  - History—United States (Appalachia), Europe, Africa, science, and technology
  - Mathematics—selected areas of pure, applied, and discrete mathematics
  - Physics—condensed matter, applied physics, plasma physics, astrophysics, electro-optics, elementary particle physics, and radio astronomy
  - Political science—public policy analysis (domestic and international)
  - Psychology—behavior analysis, behavioral neuroscience, clinical psychology, clinical child psychology, and developmental psychology
  - Sociology--crime, community, and culture
  - Statistics—statistical machine learning, computational statistics, statistical theory
-

## ADMINISTRATION

### DEAN

- R. Gregory Dunaway - Ph.D.  
University of Cincinnati

### ASSOCIATE DEANS

- Joan S. Gorham - Ed.D. (Northern Illinois University)  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- Valerie Lastinger - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
- Asuntina S. Levelle - J.D. (West Virginia University)  
Associate Dean for Financial Planning and Management
- Tracy L. Morris - Ph.D. (University of Mississippi)  
Associate Dean for Research, Graduate Studies, and Outreach
- Michael Perone - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)  
Associate Dean for Faculty

### ASSISTANT DEAN

- Anna Justice - C.F.R.E.  
Development
- Katie Stores - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)  
Assistant Dean for Research

## Degree Designation Learning Goals

### MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences offers numerous MA programs.

Students earning an MA degree will be able to:

- Describe the student's discipline, field, sub-field, area, and subject.
- Proficiently communicate area and subject matter specific concepts orally and in writing.
- Explain the role of inquiry, research, and/or creativity in addressing questions, issues, problems, and/or opportunities pertaining to the student's subject area.
- Construct a theoretical and/or creative framework that addresses a particular question, issue, problem, and/or opportunity pertaining to the students' subject area and generalize that framework to aid in understanding similar questions, issues, problems, and/or opportunities.
- Apply research skills and/or creative abilities to analyze and/or explore the student's subject area.
- Produce and defend original research and/or creative work in the student's area of study.
- Discuss future research and/or creative work that might follow from the student's project.
- Articulate the student's contribution to his or her research and/or creative community.

### MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES (MLS)

The MLS program is designed for professionals practicing in areas such as human relations, criminal and juvenile justice, court administration (including probation officers), healthcare administration, social work, regulatory agencies, county and municipal government, law enforcement, national security, journalism, business – and for other professionals who work with, although not necessarily in, the legal system.

Students earning an MLS degree will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the United States legal system.
- Demonstrate an understanding of legal research practices.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between law and society.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the administrative legal process.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the legislative process at the local, state, and national levels.
- Demonstrate an understanding of alternative dispute resolution processes
- Demonstrate basic familiarity with family law, employment law, commerce law, criminal law and procedure, healthcare law, constitutional law, media and the law, and/or administrative ethics (depending on the student's specific coursework).
- Produce a major research paper as part of the student's capstone course.

- Apply program knowledge and skills to perform the student's job more effectively, advance in the student's current career field, and/or venture into other professional endeavors.
- Provide private and public organizations the benefit of enhanced knowledge about the United States legal system.

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS)**

The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences offers numerous MS programs.

Students earning an MS degree will be able to:

- Describe the student's discipline, field, sub-field, area, and subject.
- Proficiently communicate area and subject matter specific concepts orally and in writing.
- Specify a focused research question based on description, explanation, interpretation, and/or prediction.
- Explain why the student's research question, area, and/or topic is important and worthy of investigation.
- Synthesize a literature review discussing what is already known from other scholars about the student's research question, area, or topic.
- Describe the gaps in existing knowledge and discuss the specific gap(s) the student's research addresses.
- State the student's theory or perspective and the hypothesis(es) or interpretation(s) that follow(s) from that theory or perspective.
- Specify the student's research design including how hypotheses will be tested and how the usefulness of the theory or perspective will be assessed.
- Describe the units of analysis and data used – including all sources and data collection/compilation procedures.
- Describe the methodology(ies) used – and the appropriateness of those methods.
- Discuss the student's findings – statistically (if appropriate for the methodology employed) and substantively (for all methodologies employed).
- Summarize primary conclusions and the student's contribution to his or her research area, program, and community.

Discuss future research that might follow from the student's project and findings.

## **MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)**

Students earning an MSW degree will be able to:

- Identify as a professional social worker
- Apply ethical principals
- Apply critical thinking
- Engage diversity in practice
- Advance human rights and social and economic justice
- Engage in research-informed practiced and practice-informed research
- Apply human behavior knowledge
- Engage in policy practice to advance well-being and deliver services
- Respond to practice contexts
- Demonstrate competency in practice engagement
- Demonstrate competency in practice assessment
- Demonstrate competency in practice intervention
- Demonstrate competency in practice evaluation

## **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)**

The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences offers numerous doctoral programs.

Students earning a doctoral degree will be able to:

- Achieve all learning goals listed above under the MA or MS degree (depending on the student's research or creative area)
- Effectively communicate, orally and in writing, the state of knowledge in the student's discipline, field, sub-field, and specific research or creative area.
- Conduct independent and original research or creative work of publishable quality
- Teach, at any undergraduate level or beyond, core courses in the student's discipline and field and specialized courses in the student's sub-field and research or creative area.
- Write research manuscripts or creative work leading to refereed or juried publications.