

Multidisciplinary Studies, B.MdS.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies (BMDS)

Nature of the Program

The Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies degree (BMDS) comprises a core of MDS courses and three related minors. The program stresses the importance of broad learning and thinking across disciplines. Students will learn to use specialized knowledge from their minors to analyze complex problems from divergent perspectives.

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

The breadth of study available to Multidisciplinary students empowers them to be successful in any field they choose. MDS degree holders are flourishing in business, teaching, entrepreneurial endeavors, health professions, and public and health administration. They are earning advanced degrees in social work, business administration, and law. The flexibility of the degree prepares students for today's rapidly changing workforce.

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/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.

FACULTY

DIRECTOR

- Scott Davidson - Ph.D. (Duquesne University)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Renee K. Nicholson - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)
- Louis Slimak - Ph.D. (Purdue University)
- Carol Zwickel - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Thaddeus Herman - Ph.D. (University of Illinois)
- Jayme Scally - Ph.D. (University of York)
- Nevena Stojanovic - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)

INSTRUCTORS

- Andrea Soccorsi - M.A. (West Virginia University)

Admissions

- Incoming freshmen are admitted directly into the major.
- Transfers from another major at WVU must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.
- Transfers from another institution must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS 2024-2025

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

Major Code: 1496

[Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study \(p. 3\)](#)

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

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

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Degree Requirements

Students in the Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies (B.MdS.) must complete the WVU General Education Foundations requirements, programmatic requirements, and electives to total a minimum of 120 hours.

- **Capstone Requirement:** The university requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. Students in the MDS program must complete MDS 489 (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/everlycollegeofartsandsciences/multidisciplinarystudiesdegreeprogram/>) with a grade of C- or better during their final year.
- **Writing and Communication Skills Requirement:** Multidisciplinary Studies students fulfill the requirement by completing ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 (or ENGL 103), and two additional **SpeakWrite Certified Courses™**: MDS 199 and MDS 489.
- **Calculation of the GPA in the Major:** A minimum GPA of a 2.0 is required in all courses applied to major requirements, with a minimum grade of a C- in MDS 199 and MDS 489. Students must meet individual requirements associated with their chosen minors. If a course is repeated, all attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA, unless the course is eligible for a D/F repeat.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	70
	Multidisciplinary Studies Major Requirements	50
Total Hours		120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)	
	Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8	36
MDS 191	First-Year Seminar	1
	General Electives	33
Total Hours		70

Multidisciplinary Studies Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS		2
MDS 199	Orientation to MDS	
Minor One		15
Minor Two		15
Minor Three		15
Capstone Experience		3
MDS 489	Capstone	
Total Hours		50

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MDS 191		1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
GEF 2		3 GEF 2	3
GEF 3		3 GEF 5	3
GEF 4		3 GEF 6	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		2	
		15	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 GEF 8*	3
ECAS International Requirement (GEF 7)		3 Minor II-1	3
MDS 199		2 Minor III-1	3
Minor I-1		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		4 General Elective	3
		15	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
GEF 8*		3 GEF 8*	3
Minor I-2		3 Minor I-3	3
Minor II-2		3 Minor II-3	3
Minor III-2		3 Minor III-3	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Minor I-4		3 MDS 489	3
Minor II-4		3 Minor I-5	3
Minor III-4		3 Minor II-5	3
General Elective		3 Minor III-5	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Total credit hours: 120

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Students earning a fourth minor, a second major or a dual degree already fulfill F 8.

Degree Progress

- 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.

Major Learning Outcomes

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

1. Knowledge

- Broad-based knowledge of three discrete areas of study
- Understanding of synergistic advantage of multidisciplinary curriculum

2. Skills

- Ability to think critically in each of three disciplines
- Ability to partition and interpret information or events using the most appropriate discipline's toolset
- Ability to write a professional resume, conduct a job interview, and apply to graduate school.
- Ability to research and write a research paper

3. Attitudes

- Positive attitude towards civic action, nonprofit organizations, and community engagement

4. Integrative Learning

- Ability to explain Multidisciplinary Studies and its advantages to others
- Ability to apply academic knowledge to contemporary political, social, scientific, and humanitarian questions