

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 integrate 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 could choose minors in communications, data science, and leadership studies with the goal of leading a company. Or a student could choose minors in history, philosophy, and political science to prepare for a career in law. Or a student could choose minors in addiction studies, psychology, and sociology to work in the social service sector or become a counselor. The possibilities are truly limitless. MDS faculty and advisers guide students in designing the right program to suit their individual interests and goals.

The breadth of learning available to Multidisciplinary students empowers them to be successful in any path they choose. MDS alumni are flourishing in business, education, entrepreneurship, health professions, and the public sector. They are earning advanced degrees in social work, business administration, and law. The flexibility of the degree prepares students for success in today's complex and rapidly changing workforce.

Minors

MDS students may add a fourth minor to complement their three core minors, but students may not earn a minor in their own major field of study. View a list of all available minors and their requirements (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/minors/>) [here](#).

FACULTY

DIRECTOR

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

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- 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)
- Andrea Soccorsi - M.A. (West Virginia University)
- Nevena Stojanovic - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Renee K. Nicholson - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)

Admissions for 2026-2027

- First Time Freshmen are admitted directly to the major.
- Students transferring from another WVU major or from another institution with fewer than 24 credits and at least a 2.0 overall GPA are admitted directly to the major.
- Students transferring from another WVU major or from another institution with 24 hours or more and at least a 2.0 overall GPA are admitted directly to the major.

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.

- **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 101, MDS 279, 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.
- **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 101 and MDS 489.
- **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/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/multidisciplinarystudiesdegreeprogram/>) with a grade of C- or better during their final year.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
University Requirements		48
Eberly Edge Requirements		15
Multidisciplinary Studies Requirements		57
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 or 5, 3, 4, 6 or 7, and 8		30
MDS 191	First-Year Seminar	1
General Electives		17
Total Hours		48

Eberly Edge Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
EDG 1: Data and Society		3
EDG 2: Effective and Civil Communication (MDS 279)		
EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility (GEF 2 or 5)		3

EDG 4: Global and Regional Perspectives (GEF 6 or 7)	3
EDG 5: Practicing Arts & Sciences (ARSC 380)	3
EDG 6: EDG High Impact Experience	3
Total Hours	15

Multidisciplinary Studies Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
CORE REQUIREMENTS:		9
MDS 101	Introduction to Multidisciplinary Studies	
MDS 279	Multidisciplinary Theories and Methods	
Any Upper-Division MDS Course *		
CONCENTRATION:		45
Minor One		
Minor Two		
Minor Three		
CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT:		3
MDS 489	Capstone	
Total Hours		57

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Except MDS 301, 302 and 303.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MDS 101		3 ENGL 101	3
MDS 191		1 EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility (GEF 2A or 5)	3
EDG 1: Data and Society		3 GEF 2A	3
GEF 2A or 5		3 GEF 6 or 7	3
GEF 3		3 General Elective	3
GEF 4		3	
		16	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102		3 GEF 8 Course 1	3
MDS 279 (EDG 2)		3 Minor II - 1	3
Minor I - 1		3 Minor III - 1	3
General Elective		3 EDG 4: Global and Regional Perspectives (GEF 6 or 7)	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
MDS 300-Level Course or Above		3 GEF 8 Course 2	3
ARSC 380 (EDG 5)		3 GEF 8 Course 3	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
		15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Minor I - 4		3 EDG 6: High Impact Experience	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	2 MDS 489	3
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14		15
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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 101 must be completed by the 2nd semester in the program.
- 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

Upon completion of the MDS program, students will:

1. Acquire range of knowledge and the agility to traverse multiple perspectives and disciplines.
2. Be able to apply interdisciplinary tools and methods to address complex 21st century problems.
3. Develop teamwork and leadership skills as a member of an interdisciplinary problem-solving team (in person and/or remotely).
4. Articulate the value of interdisciplinary thinking persuasively and reflect on its relevance in one's own learning.