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 courses and 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. The BMDS degree 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 and interdisciplinary techniques to communicate the strengths of their self-chosen course of study.

MDS students choose 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.

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 ensures that students are prepared for success in 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.

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 coursework and their broader citizenship. For details regarding Certificate requirements, please visit the Eberly College page (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/#otherdegreestext).

FACULTY

INTERIM COORDINATOR

- John Navartnam - Ph.D. Biology West Virginia University

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Renee K. Nocholson - M.F.A. West Virginia University
  Creative Writing and Narrative Medicine

- Carol Zwickel - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  English Language and Literature

INSTRUCTORS

- Andrea Soccorsi - M.A. (West Virginia University)
  English Language and Literature
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 2023-2024

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2023-2024 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.

General Education Foundations

F1 - Composition & Rhetoric 3-6
- ENGL 101 Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric
- ENGL 102 and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research
- or ENGL 103 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.D.M.S) 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/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/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.

- **Course Requirements:** Minor courses may not be used to satisfy the General Education Foundations 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 (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/multidisciplinarystudiesdegreeprogram/), must be completed the semester before taking MDS 489 (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/multidisciplinarystudiesdegreeprogram/).

- **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 Multidisciplinary Studies Major Requirements.
- **Benchmark Expectations**: For details, go to the Multidisciplinary Studies Degree Progress tab (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/multidisciplinarystudiesdegreeprogram/#degreeprogress).

## Curriculum Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University Requirements</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary Studies Major Requirements</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### University Requirements

- 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 Credits)
- MDS 191 First-Year Seminar (1 Credit)
- General Electives (33 Credits)
- **Total Hours**: 70

### Multidisciplinary Studies Major Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Requirements</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS 199 Orientation to MDS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor One</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Two</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Three</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capstone Experience</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS 489 Capstone</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Suggested Plan of Study

### First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Fall Hours</th>
<th>Spring Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDS 191</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEF 2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GEF 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEF 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GEF 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEF 4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GEF 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Fall Hours</th>
<th>Spring Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 102 (GEF 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GEF 8’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECAS International Requirement (GEF 7)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minor II-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS 199</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minor III-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor I-1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Fall Hours</th>
<th>Spring Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEF 8’</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GEF 8’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor I-2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minor I-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor II-2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minor II-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor III-2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minor III-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective @ 200-level</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Elective @ 200-level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fourth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minor I-4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MDS 489</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor II-4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minor I-5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor III-4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minor II-5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective @ 200-level</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minor III-5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective @ 200-level</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Elective @ 200-level</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total credit hours: 120

* 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

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 191. First-Year Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
Engages students in active learning strategies that enable effective transition to college life at WVU. Students will explore school, college and university programs, policies and services relevant to academic success. Provides active learning activities that enable effective transition to the academic environment. Students examine school, college and university programs, policies and services.

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

MDS 270. Effective Public Speaking. 3 Hours.
PR: Corequisite of MDS 270S. Designed for improvement of the student's speech based upon theory and demonstrated performance of voice and diction skills and public-speaking skills for effective communication in a variety of speaking situations.
MDS 270S. Effective Public Speaking Studio. 0 Hours.
PR: Corequisite of MDS 270. This studio course is designed for improvement of the student's speech based upon theory and demonstrated performance of voice and diction skills and public-speaking skills for effective communication in a variety of speaking situations.

MDS 289. Foundations of Interdisciplinary Studies. 3 Hours.
Introduces students to interdisciplinary studies as an academic discipline with its own terminology, research methods, and set of assumptions applicable to addressing complex problems.

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

MDS 301. Integrative Writing. 3 Hours.
Development of the writing process and portfolio generation, adapted for three contexts: gaining course credit through RBA portfolio review, preparing for graduate school, and preparing for the job market.

MDS 302. Portfolio Development. 1 Hour.
PR: MDS 301 with a minimum grade of C-. Centers on guiding students through the learning and writing processes grounded in the synthesis of their studies and work experience. Highlights the importance of integrative and applied learning and of effective self-reflection and argumentation. After completing the course, students will submit a portfolio to the appropriate unit to earn credit.

MDS 304. People vs. the Planet: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change. 3 Hours.
Investigates the issue of climate change through an interdisciplinary approach defined as the Environmental Humanities. Students will employ critical thinking, research, and presentation skills culminating in a community-based action project with a local non-profit or university-based organization.

MDS 306. Medicine and the Arts. 3 Hours.
PR: ENGL 102 with a minimum grade of C-. In Medicine and the Arts, students will learn to make connections between artistic production and the health sciences, examining the historical, linguistic, cultural and aesthetic contexts in which we engage in and with healthcare. Students will employ critical analysis and practical skills in the course. They will analyze works of art with mindfulness to modern life and healthcare.

MDS 389. Interdisciplinary Research Methods. 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 393. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

MDS 401. Capstone in Integrated Studies and RBA. 3 Hours.
PR: MDS 301. Capstone experience for Multidisciplinary Studies (MDS) students to incorporate academic, intellectual, and professional skills to complete a final project for the MDS program. Focus is on oral communication skills, presentation skills, research skills, analysis, reasoning, resilience, collaboration, self-promotion, professional development, and lifelong learning.

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 492. Directed Study. 1-3 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

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

MDS 494. 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 498. Honors. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Students in Honors Program and consent by the honors director. Independent reading, study or research.