

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES B.A.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Multidisciplinary Studies provides a rigorous academic program with a strong foundation in the arts and sciences. The program provides preparation for graduate or professional degrees beyond the college's other, specialized and primarily professional/career focused, bachelor's degree programs.

This degree program is comprised of three related minor areas of study and culminates with a senior project that combines these three disciplines. The program does not limit students or courses of study to a particular major or division, but emphasizes multidisciplinary/cross-disciplinary studies. The program's flexibility, appropriate breadth and depth in the chosen areas of study, and focus on developing an understanding of the nature of cross-disciplinary investigation constitute its most salient features.

Each student selects three minor areas for study and then must demonstrate how these areas contribute to their educational or career goals. Multidisciplinary studies students complete a senior project during their final semester as a means to incorporate all three disciplines.

Minors currently available include:

- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Communication
- Fine Arts (Art, Music, or Theatre)
- History
- Literature
- Psychology
- Sociology

The Bachelor of Arts degree in multidisciplinary studies provides:

- a pathway for students who plan to earn a master's or professional degree in areas of health science (medicine, physician assistant, dentistry, pharmacy, physical therapy, etc.), human services (counseling, psychology, social work), theology/divinity, law, or attend graduate school in the arts, humanities, natural sciences, or social sciences.
- an opportunity for students to study three disciplines and to investigate the interrelationships among them.
- a rigorous Bachelor of Arts degree for students who wish to earn a bachelor's degree but do not have a clear career path.

Requirements for Admission

1. Students must apply for formal admission to the Multidisciplinary Studies degree program.
2. New students should begin their college studies in the Associate of Arts degree program.
3. Students must have completed at least 30 credit hours in the MDS General Education curriculum with at least one course in each general education strand with a 2.5 cumulative grade point average before they apply.
4. A formal application for admission must be submitted to the Multidisciplinary Studies program office. The application includes a Letter of Intent that identifies the student's three proposed minors and explains how the student will combine these disciplines to achieve their educational or career goals.

Milestone Course

These courses are the keys to graduation. Courses should be taken in the recommended semesters to stay on time for completion.

Electives

Course sequencing for the MDS requires careful advising each semester based on the requirements of the minors selected. Electives must be chosen carefully to ensure program completion.

Students should average 15 credit hours per semester, or 30 per year, to graduate on time

Total Degree Credits: 121

Course	Title	Hours
Semester 1		
COLL 101	ORIENTATION TO COLLEGE	1
ENGL 101	~COMPOSITION 1 ²	3
Minor 1 ¹		3
Minor 2 ¹		3

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Minor 3 ¹		3
Select one of the following:		3
MATH 121	~INTRO TO MATHEMATICS	
MATH 126	~COLLEGE ALGEBRA	
Or higher		
	Hours	16
Semester 2		
ENGL 102	~COMPOSITION 2 ²	3
General Education/Foundation Learning Course		3
General Education/Foundation Learning Course		3
General Education/Foundation Learning Course		3
General Education/Foundation Learning Course		3
	Hours	15
Semester 3		
Scientific Inquiry (https://wvup-public.courseleaf.com/programs-study/general-education-mission/#si) Elective		4
General Education/Foundation Learning Course or Minor Course		3
Minor 1		3
Minor 2		3
Minor 3		3
	Hours	16
Semester 4		
Scientific Inquiry (https://wvup-public.courseleaf.com/programs-study/general-education-mission/#si) Elective		4
General Education/Foundation Learning Course or Minor Course		3
Minor 1		3
Minor 2		3
Minor 3		3
	Hours	16
Semester 5		
Minor 1		3
Minor 2		3
Minor 3		3
Minor 1,2 or 3 as Needed		3
Elective (MDS Advisor Approved)		3
	Hours	15
Semester 6		
Minor 1		3
Minor 2		3
Minor 3		3
Minor 1,2 or 3 as Needed		3
Elective (MDS Advisor Approved)		3
	Hours	15
Semester 7		
MDS 491	PROJECT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT ²	1
Minor 1		3
Minor 2		3
Minor 3		3
Minor 1,2 or 3 as Needed		3
Elective (MDS Advisor Approved)		3
	Hours	16
Semester 8		
MDS 492	SENIOR PROJECT ²	3
Minor 1		3
Minor 2		3
Minor 3		3
	Hours	12
	Total Hours	121

¹ Gen Ed Pre-Requisite

² Milestone course

Biology Minor

A grade of C or higher is required in all minor coursework

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Courses (not counted in minor-required hours)		
BIOL 115	~PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY	
BIOL 117	~INTRODUCTORY PHYSIOLOGY	
Additional Courses		
Select two of the following:		8
BIOL 107	~ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY 1	
BIOL 108	~ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY 2	
BIOL 211	ZOOLOGY-ANIMALS AS ORGANISMS	
BIOL 212	BOTANY-PLANTS AS ORGANISMS	
BIOL 219	THE LIVING CELL	
Select 10 hours of the following:		10
BIOL 200 & BIOL 201	MICROBIOLOGY and MICROBIOLOGY LAB	
BIOL 371	PRINCIPLES OF GENETICS	
BIOL 436	GENERAL ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY	
BIOL 461	PRINCIPLES OF EVOLUTION	
Total Hours		18

Business Minor

A grade of C or higher is required in all minor coursework

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Courses (not counted in minor-required hours)		
ECON 201	~MICROECONOMICS	
ECON 202	~MACROECONOMICS	
Required Business Courses		
ACCT 201	PRIN OF ACCOUNTING 1	3
MGMT 220	PRINCIPLES OF MANAGEMENT	3
MKTG 230	PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING	3
GBUS 310	BUSINESS LAW 1	3
Upper Level Business or Economics Course (Approved by MDS Advisor)		3
Upper Level Business or Economics Course (Approved by MDS Advisor)		3
Total Hours		18

Chemistry Minor

A grade of C or higher is required in all minor coursework

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Courses (not counted in minor-required hours)		
CHEM 115	~FUNDAMENTALS OF CHEMISTRY 1	
CHEM 116	~FUNDAMENTALS OF CHEMISTRY 2	
Required Chemistry Courses ¹		
CHEM 233 & CHEM 235	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 1 and ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 1 LAB	4
CHEM 234 & CHEM 236	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 2 and ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 2 LAB	4
CHEM 410 & CHEM 412	INTRODUCTORY BIOCHEMISTRY and INTRO BIOCHEMISTRY LAB	4
PHYS 101	~INTRO TO PHYSICS 1	4

Upper Level Chemistry	2
Total Hours	18

¹ Note: CHEM 111 ~INTRO TO GENERAL CHEMISTRY does not meet any requirements for MDS Chemistry Minor

Communication Minor

A grade of C or higher is required in all minor coursework

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Courses (not counted in minor-required hours)		
COMM 111	~FUND OF PUBLIC SPEAKING	
COMM 112	SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION	
Required Communication Studies Courses		
COMM 202	INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION	3
COMM 304	HUMAN COMM/RATIONAL DECISIONS	3
COMM 306	HUMAN COMM IN ORG & INSTITU	3
COMM 308	NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION	3
COMM 316	INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION	3
COMM 404	PERSUASION THEORY & RESEARCH	3
Total Hours		18

Fine Arts Minor (Select One)

A grade of C or higher is required in all minor coursework

Art

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Courses (not counted in minor-required hours)		
ART 101	~ART APPRECIATION	
MUSI 170	~MUSIC APPRECIATION	
THEA 101	~THEATRE APPRECIATION	
Additional Courses		
ART 111	DRAWING 1	3
ART 240	CERAMICS 1	3
Select one of the following:		
ART 112	DRAWING 2	
ART 213	PAINTING 1	
ART 241	CERAMICS 2	
Select one of the following:		
ART 314	ADVANCED PAINTING	
ART 340	ADVANCED CERAMICS	
ART 351	FOUND OBJECT WELDED SCULPTURE	
ART 360	CONTEMPORARY ART HISTORY	3
MDS 460	FINE ARTS SEMINAR ¹	3
Total Hours		18

¹ Note: All Fine Arts Minors MDS 460 FINE ARTS SEMINAR (required) 3 hours

Music

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Courses (not counted in minor-required hours)		
ART 101	~ART APPRECIATION	
MUSI 170	~MUSIC APPRECIATION	

THEA 101	~THEATRE APPRECIATION	
Additional Courses		
MUSI 121	MUSIC THEORY 1	4
MUSI 122	MUSIC THEORY 2	4
Select one of the following:		1
MUSI 171	APPLIED MUSIC-PIANO	
MUSI 172	APPLIED MUSIC-VOICE	
MUSI 173	APPLIED MUSIC-GUITAR	
MUSI 174	APPLIED MUSIC-ORGAN	
MUSI 175	APPLIED MUSIC-PERCUSSION	
MUSI 176	APPLIED MUSIC-FLUTE	
MUSI 177	APPLIED MUSIC-OBOE	
MUSI 178	APPLIED MUSIC-CLARINET	
MUSI 179	APPLIED MUSIC-SAXOPHONE	
MUSI 180	APPLIED MUSIC-BASSOON	
MUSI 181	APPLIED MUSIC-TRUMPET	
MUSI 182	APPLIED MUSIC-FRENCH HORN	
MUSI 183	APPLIED MUSIC-TROMBONE	
MUSI 184	APPLIED MUSIC-BARITONE HORN	
MUSI 185	APPLIED MUSIC-TUBA	
MUSI 186	APPLIED MUSIC-VIOLIN	
MUSI 187	APPLIED MUSIC-VIOLA	
MUSI 188	APPLIED MUSIC-CELLO	
MUSI 189	APPLIED MUSIC-BASS	
MUSI 190	APPLIED MUSIC-HARP	
MUSI 390	APPLIED MUSIC	3
MUSI 311	AMERICAN MUSIC	3
MDS 460	FINE ARTS SEMINAR ¹	3
Total Hours		18

¹ Note: All Fine Arts Minors MDS 460 FINE ARTS SEMINAR (required) 3 hours

Theatre

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Courses (not counted in minor-required hours)		
ART 101	~ART APPRECIATION	
MUSI 170	~MUSIC APPRECIATION	
THEA 101	~THEATRE APPRECIATION	
Additional Courses		
THEA 102	ACTING 1	3
THEA 131	INTRO TO TECHNICAL THEATRE	3
THEA Elective (Lower Level)		3
THEA 302 or THEA 404	DIRECTING PLAYWRITING	3
THEA 397	SPECIAL TOPICS (Theatre History)	3
MDS 460	FINE ARTS SEMINAR ¹	3
Total Hours		18

¹ Note: All Fine Arts Minors MDS 460 FINE ARTS SEMINAR (required) 3 hours

History Minor

A grade of C or higher is required in all minor coursework

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Courses (not counted in minor-required hours)		
Select one of the following:		
HIST 101 & HIST 102	~WEST CIV THROUGH REFORMATION and ~WESTERN CIV FROM REFORMATION	
HIST 152 & HIST 153	~US HIST THROUGH CIVIL WAR and ~US HIST FROM RECONSTRUCTION	
Additional Courses		
Select 18 hours of the following:		18
HIST 250	WV & THE APPALACHIAN REGION	
HIST 302	HISTORY OF AMERICAN INDIANS	
HIST 306	COLONIAL AMERICA: 1607-1763	
HIST 310	AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY	
HIST 340	AMERICAN CENTURY: 1918-1989	
HIST 355	ANCIENT GREECE & ROME	
HIST 360	HISTORY OF CRIME & PUNISHMENT	
HIST 390	LEGENDS, LORE & MYTHOLOGY	
HIST 410	REVOLUTIONARY AMER: 1764-1787	
HIST 430	CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION	
HIST 445	HISTORY OF AMERICAN WOMEN	
HIST 463	EUROPE & THE MIDDLE AGES	
HIST 465	RENAISSANCE & REFORMATION	
HIST 475	MOD EUROPEAN HIST:1900-PRESENT	
Total Hours		18

Literature Minor

A grade of C or higher is required in all minor coursework

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Courses (not counted in minor-required hours)		
Select two of the following:		
ENGL 131	~TYPES OF LITERATURE 1	
ENGL 132	~TYPES OF LITERATURE 2	
ENGL 221	~WORLD LITERATURE 1	
ENGL 222	~WORLD LITERATURE 2	
ENGL 241	~AMERICAN LITERATURE 1	
ENGL 242	~AMERICAN LITERATURE 2	
ENGL 261	~ENGLISH LITERATURE 1	
ENGL 262	~ENGLISH LITERATURE 2	
Additional Courses		
Select one of the following:		3
ENGL 213	CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY	
ENGL 214	CREATIVE WRITING: NONFICTION	
ENGL 215	CREATIVE WRITING: FICTION	
Select 15 hours of the following:		15
ENGL 285	GENDER IN LITERATURE	
ENGL 320	MEDIEVAL LITERATURE	
ENGL 325	SHAKESPEARE	
ENGL 330	MILTON	
ENGL 335	THE ROMANTIC MOVEMENT	

ENGL 340	THE VICTORIAN ERA
ENGL 345	MODERN LITERATURE
ENGL 410	REGIONAL LITERATURE
ENGL 415	AMERICAN VOICES
ENGL 420	SINGLE AUTHOR FOCUS
ENGL 425	TOPICS IN CONTEMP GLOBAL LIT
ENGL 430	COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
ENGL 450	LITERARY CRITICISM
Total Hours	18

Psychology Minor

A grade of C or higher is required in all minor coursework

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Courses (not counted in minor-required hours)		
PSYC 101	~INTRO TO PSYCHOLOGY	
PSYC 241	~INTRO TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	
Required Psychology Courses		
PSYC 281	ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 318	HISTORY AND SYSTEMS	3
PSYC 323	INDUST/ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCH	3
PSYC 350	INTRO TO COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY	3
PSYC 362	PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT	3
PSYC 363	THEORIES OF PERSONALITY	3
Total Hours		18

Sociology Minor

A grade of C or higher is required in all minor coursework

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Courses (not counted in minor-required hours)		
SOC 101	~INTRO TO SOCIOLOGY	
SOC 221	MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY	
Required Sociology Courses		
SOC 107	SOCIAL PROBLEMS	3
SOC 302	DEVIANT BEHAVIOR	3
SOC 360	GENDER & HUMAN IDENTITY	3
SOC 362	SOCIOLOGY OF AGING	3
SOC 390	WORLD CULTURES THROUGH FILM	3
SOC 405	SOCIAL INEQUALITY	3
Total Hours		18

Degree requires a total of 121 credit hours. [Core Course Credit Hours : 36]

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
COLL 101	ORIENTATION TO COLLEGE ¹	1
Writing and Rhetoric (https://wvup-public.courseleaf.com/programs-study/general-education-mission/#wr)		6
Quantitative Reasoning (https://wvup-public.courseleaf.com/programs-study/general-education-mission/#qr)		3
Scientific Inquiry (https://wvup-public.courseleaf.com/programs-study/general-education-mission/#si)		8
Select 12 hours from a minimum of three categories:		12
Aesthetics, Creativity, and Appreciation (https://wvup-public.courseleaf.com/programs-study/general-education-mission/#aca)		
Human Communication and Interaction (https://wvup-public.courseleaf.com/programs-study/general-education-mission/#hci)		
People and Their Worlds (https://wvup-public.courseleaf.com/programs-study/general-education-mission/#ptw)		

General Education/Foundational Learning Courses or Minor Courses	6
Program Courses	
General Education/Foundational Learning Courses or Minor Courses	18
Multidisciplinary Studies Minor 1 ²	18
Multidisciplinary Studies Minor 2 ²	18
Multidisciplinary Studies Minor 3 ²	18
MDS 491 PROJECT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT	1
MDS 492 SENIOR PROJECT	3
Electives (MDS Advisor Approved)	9
Total Hours	121

¹ Institutional Graduation Requirement.

² Minors currently available include: Biology, Business, Chemistry, Communication, Fine Arts (Art, Music, or Theatre), History, Literature, Psychology and Sociology