Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies
Dr. Fletcher Linder, Director
Phone: (540) 568-5260
Location: Maury Hall, Room 118

The major in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies (IDLS) is the undergraduate major for students who are pursuing teaching licensure in any of the following education licensure programs: Early Childhood (PreK-3); Elementary (PreK-6); Middle Grades (6-8) and Special Education (K-12). IDLS offers extended breadth and integration across the content areas of English/language arts, history/social sciences, mathematics/science/technology, and the requirements support Virginia teacher licensure competencies. Students with this major who are seeking teacher licensure must complete the education pre-professional licensure program corresponding to their licensure interests. Further information about the education licensure programs can be found at the end of this entry in the “IDLS Major and Education Pre-Professional Programs” section and in the section for the College of Education.

IDLS requirements vary depending upon the licensure program, as outlined below. A current IDLS checksheet is available at http://www.jmu.edu/idls.

In the unusual circumstance that a student exits the education licensure pre-professional program late in his/her college career, the IDLS director may permit the student to complete the IDLS degree with the addition of an appropriate minor.

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies for Early Childhood, Elementary Education and Special Education Licensure Students

Degree Requirements
IDLS and general education core 53
Remaining General Education 6
IDLS Upper-level concentration 21
Education Program 35-47
Elective 5 (maximum)
Total 120

Core Requirements
Language Arts & Communication
Writing (Choose one) 3
GWRIT 103. Critical Reading and Writing
Oral Communication (Choose one) 3
GCOM 121. Fundamental Human Communication: Presentations
GCOM 122. Fundamental Human Communication: Individual Presentations
GCOM 123. Fundamental Human Communication: Group Presentations
Literature (Choose one) 3
GENG 235. Survey of English Literature: From Beowulf to the 18th Century
GENG 236. Survey of English Literature: 18th Century to Modern
GENG 247. Survey of American Literature: From the Beginning to the Civil War
GENG 248. Survey of American Literature: From the Civil War to the Modern Period
GENG 239. Studies in World Literature

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies for Middle Education Licensure Students

Degree Requirements
IDLS and general education core 53
IDLS Upper-level concentration 36-42
Education Program 32
Elective 0-6
Total 120

The IDLS Middle Education curriculum consists of 46 hours of
General Education Core requirements and 36-42 hours in the content concentrations, depending upon which concentrations are selected. Students will select two concentrations from four: science, mathematics, social studies and language arts. Mathematics and science concentrations are 18 hours. Language arts and social studies concentrations are 21 hours. Any combination of concentrations will satisfy the teacher licensure endorsement requirements for Middle Grades licensure in Virginia. The Middle Grades curriculum of IDLS is open only to Middle Grades licensure students.

General Education Core Requirements for IDLS Middle Education

Students follow the General Education check sheet for their catalog year, and complete these specific IDLS core requirements:

Cluster 2: Must select GHIST 102 from Tier 1
Cluster 3: Must select Track 2 (the GSCI 16X series);
   must complete the series with GSCI 166;
   must take MATH 108 in addition to MATH 107
Cluster 4: Must select GCON 200
Cluster 5: Must select GPSYC 150

Middle Education Concentration Options

ME students will complete the required courses for any two of the four areas: science, mathematics, language arts, social studies.

Concentration  Credit Hours

Science
GEOL 301. Earth Science for Teachers 18
BIO 366. Plants and the Environment
CHEM 280. Practical Applications in Chemistry for Teachers
PHYS 301. Searching for Life in the Universe
ISAT 454. Computer Applications in BioTechnology

Social Science
HIST 350. Virginia History 21
ANTH 368. Modern American Culture
GEOG 280. Human Geography: The Cultural Landscape
Choose one:
   ANTH 327. Ancient North American Civilizations
   HIST 453. Patterns of Global History
Choose one:
   REL 305. Islamic Religious Tradition
   REL 310. Hindu Traditions
   REL 312. Religions of East Asia
   REL 320. Judaism
   REL 385. Buddhism
   HIST 339. Selected Themes, when topic is American Religious History
   IDLS 400 Seminar in Liberal Studies*
   POSC 240. Comparative Politics

Mathematics
MATH 207. Mathematical Problem Solving 18
MATH 304. Principles of Algebra
MATH 305. Principles of Geometry
MATH 306. Principles of Analysis
Choose one:
   Mathematics elective

Language Arts
Choose one:
   ENG 421. Traditional English Grammar
   ENG 422. Modern English Grammar
Choose one:
   ENG 325. Romantic Poetry
   ENG 331. Modern Poetry
   ENG 332. Contemporary Poetry
   ENG 362. African American Poets

   ENG 367. Women's Poetry
Choose one:
   ENG 299. Writing about Literature
   WRIT 340. Teaching about Writing
   ENG 396. Advanced Composition

   ENG 440. Texts for Teachers I (poetry or drama)
   ENG 441. Texts for Teachers II (fiction or nonfiction)
   Any upper level English elective

Choose one:
   ENG 456. Shakespeare's Tragedies and Romances
   ENG 457. Shakespeare's Comedies and Histories

Choose one:
   ENG 330. The Nineteenth Century Novel
   ENG 355. Southern Literature
   ENG 356. Modern American Novel
   ENG 357 Contemporary American Fiction
   ENG 361. African American Fiction Writers
   ENG 368. Women's Fiction

IDLS 400 Seminar in Liberal Studies*

*Students who select endorsements in Social Science and Language Arts will take IDLS 400 once, and then a 300-400 elective in one area. The IDLS 400 is an interdisciplinary course drawing upon materials from language arts and social science disciplines. As such, the course is suitable for students coming from an LA endorsement concentration, SS endorsement concentration, or both.

IDLS Advisement

The IDLS major is assigned two advisers. One adviser is the adviser for the education pre-professional licensure program who will guide the student through the licensure program requirements. The other adviser is the IDLS adviser who will guide the student through the IDLS major requirements. Students should plan on consulting both advisers regularly. Typically, the education adviser is assigned when the student meets with the head of his or her licensure programs and elects the licensure program. This may be as early as the first semester of the first year. The IDLS adviser is assigned when the first year student advising folders are transferred to the IDLS office (second semester, first year). Students are required to check with advisers regularly to ensure timely graduation.

IDLS Major and Education Pre-Professional Programs

Licensure Area: Early Childhood Education PreK-3
Degree Required: Bachelor of Science (B.S.)
Major Field of Study: IDLS with early childhood education pre-professional program

Licensure Area: Elementary Education PreK-6
Degree Required: Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)
Major Field of Study: IDLS with elementary education education pre-professional program

Licensure Area: Middle Education Grades 6-8
Degree Required: Master of Arts In Teaching (M.A.T.)
Major Field of Study: IDLS with middle education education pre-professional program

Licensure Area: Special Education Grades K-12
Degree Required: Master of Education (M.Ed.)
Major Field of Study: IDLS with special education education pre-professional program