Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies

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Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies (IDLS) is the undergraduate major for students pursuing teaching licensure in inclusive early childhood education (early childhood education, preK-3, and early childhood special education, birth to five), elementary education (preK-6), middle grades education (6-8) and special education (K-12). The IDLS major meets Virginia teacher competencies by providing breadth and integration across the content areas of English and language arts, history, social sciences, mathematics, natural sciences, and technology. IDLS requirements vary by education program, as outlined in the section, and a current IDLS checksheet is available at www.jmu.edu/idls/. Students declaring the IDLS major must also declare one of the teacher education programs previously listed. Detailed information on teacher education programs is in the College of Education sections of this catalog.

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 Inclusive Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education and Special Education Licensure

Degree Requirements
IDLS and general education core 53
Remaining General Education 6
IDLS Upper-level concentration 21
Education Program 35-47
Elective 0 - 10
120

Core Requirements
Language Arts & Communication Credit Hours
Writing 3
GWRTC 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

History/Social Sciences
Global History (Both required) 6
GHIST 101. World History to 1500
GHIST 102. World History Since 1500
U.S. History 4
GHIST 225. U.S. History
Government 4
GPOSC 225. U.S. Government
Economics (Choose one) 3
GECO 200. Introduction to Macroeconomics
ECON 201. Principles of Economics (Micro)
Geography (Choose one) 3
GEOG 280. Human Geography: The Cultural Landscape
GANTH 195. Cultural Anthropology
Psychology 3
GPSYC 160. Life Span Human Development
Health (Choose one) 3
GKIN 100. Lifetime Fitness and Wellness
GHTH 100. Personal Wellness
Mathematics
Fundamentals of Math (all required) 9
MATH 107. Fundamentals of Math I
MATH 108. Fundamentals of Math II
MATH 207. Fundamentals of Mathematics III
Natural Sciences
9
IDLS students should select Track II in Cluster Three
GSCI 161. Science Processes
GSCI 162. The Science of the Planets
GSCI 163. The Matter of Matter
GSCI 164. Physical Science: Learning Through Teaching
GSCI 165. The Way Life Works
GSCI 166. Environment in Context
Upper Level concentration requirement 21 hours in either math/science/technology or humanities/social sciences.

When students in IECE, ELED or EXED declare the IDLS major, they also select an upper-level concentration in either mathematics/science or humanities/social sciences. The concentration provides depth and integration beyond the core requirements. Course requirements for each concentration are listed in the IDLS checksheet online.
Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies for Middle Education Licensure

Degree Requirements

IDLS and general education core 46
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 Group One
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 GECON 200
Cluster 5: Must select GPSYC 160

Middle Education Concentration Options

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

Concentration Credit Hours

Science

ASTR 301. Searching for Life in the Universe 18
BIO 366. Plants and the Environment
CHEM 280. Practical Applications in Chemistry for Teachers
GEOL 301. Earth Science for Teachers
ISAT 495. Technology in our World

Social Science

HIST 350. Virginia History
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
POSC 240. Comparative Politics
IDLS 400. Seminar in Liberal Studies*

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
WRTC 340. Teaching about Writing
ENG 396. Advanced Composition
Choose one:
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

IDLS majors are assigned two advisers, one to guide them through teacher education program requirements and another to guide them through IDLS major requirements. Students should check with both advisers regularly to ensure timely graduation. These advisers are assigned when students officially declare their education program and IDLS major. To declare, students must acquire education and IDLS academic unit head signatures on a “Change or Declaration of Major” form.

Teacher Licensure

To be eligible for teacher licensure in Inclusive Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle School, and Special Education, students graduating with the Bachelor of Science degree in IDLS must complete the appropriate teacher education program at the undergraduate and graduate (Master of Arts in Teaching) levels.

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