To provide students with a learning environment in which they develop and pursue self-designed curricular pathways and research goals, identifying unique domains of inquiry and interweaving multiple modes of thinking.

To empower students to cultivate their own academic and professional interests in ways that foster the ability to comprehend and contribute uniquely and innovatively to a wide array of topics, questions and problems.
Objectives

• IS majors will:
• develop topic-based interests and inquiry strategies to pursue those interests.
• enhance creativity, self-directedness and perseverance required for inquiry.
• learn research, technical and communication skills relevant to their inquiry.
• enhance aptitude and confidence in working independently and collectively.
• apply knowledge and skills in experiential-learning settings.
Degree and Major requirements

- Each student’s curriculum will include:
- a cross disciplinary exploration course (IND 200)
- 36 credit hours of course work beyond General Education requirements
- four credits of skill-enhancing workshops (IND 300)
- a six-credit hour senior project (IND 499A-C)
- the plans for relevant field experiences, internships and/or study abroad programs.

For students in the honors program, the IS senior project will fulfill the senior honors project requirement.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Bachelor of Arts</th>
<th>Bachelor of Science</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
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<td>Total credits</td>
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</table>
IS self-designed curriculum and IND 300 workshop courses

Senior project & Experiential learning/Study abroad

General Education

IND 200 and apply to IS major
Timeline

Students meet with IS coordinators
Timeline (cont)

IS Exploration Course (IND 200)
- Inquiry proposal
- Curriculum Plan
- Recruit faculty content expert
- Application adjudication by faculty committee
Timeline (cont)

Begin self-designed curriculum
Timeline (cont)

Begin taking IND 300 skill-enhancing workshops
Timeline (cont)

Begin senior project to complete inquiry
Experiential learning/
Study abroad

Year, semester, and summer programs.

Any summer, and sophomore or junior year.
Bachelor of Science
Independent Scholars
Non-profit and Private Sector Solutions to Environmental Challenges

Bachelor of Arts
Independent Scholars
Storytelling and Human Empathy

Bachelor of Science
Independent Scholars
Augmented Intelligence and Entrepreneurship
Information and support

Directors: Matthew Chamberlin and Phil Frana

Web information at
https://www.jmu.edu/honors/independent-scholars-major.shtml