Some majors (College of Integrative Sciences, environmental studies) may only
have sampled widely from different areas of the curriculum, have completed
deepen knowledge in a particular area of study. The major may help a student prepare for
certain departments, and may not declare more
than a combined total of three majors, certificates, and minors.

A degree of disciplined mastery in a major field of learning is an important
dimension of a liberal arts education. The major may help a student prepare for
a specific profession or may be necessary for a more specialized education in
general education. Academic coherence here does not rely on a core curriculum
or a set of required courses; instead, students propose their academic plan to
their faculty advisors and recalibrate it with their advisors each semester as
t heir discoveries lead them to pursue new areas or deepen existing strengths.
the end of the first two years, students are expected to have earned at least
two course credits in each of the three areas (HA, SBS, NSM), all from different
departments or programs. In the last two years, students are expected to take
one additional course credit in each of the three areas. A student who does not
meet the expectation of a total of nine general education course credits by the
time of graduation will not be eligible for University Honors, Phi Beta Kappa,
honors in general, and honors in certain departments, and may not declare more
than a combined total of two majors, certificates, and minors.

COMPETENCIES

To help students identify and describe the skills they gain on their journey
through Wesleyan’s open curriculum, we’ve developed a flexible framework of
data, and respect diverse cultural heritages and perspectives in relation to their wider
historical and social contexts. Mapping is defined as the ability to comprehend
and charting movement through and interactions with space and its
categorias. Expressing is defined as the ability to express thoughts, ideas, and
emotion to others effectively and concisely through a variety of media. Mining is
defined as the ability to use numerical ideas and methods to describe and
analyze quantifiable phenomena. It involves learning about the measurement,
alanalysis, summary, and presentation of information, including about the natural
world, as well as answering questions, solving problems, making predictions,
and testing and constructing theories by employing mathematical, statistical,
logical, and scientific reasoning. Engaging is defined as the ability to comprehend
and respect diverse cultural heritages and perspectives in relation to their wider
historical and social contexts. It involves reading, speaking, or understanding
a second or third language (contemporary or classical); gaining experience
working, studying, or traveling abroad, or in other unfamiliar cultural contexts;
and participating in the political and social life of local and global communities.

MAJORS

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OPEN CURRICULUM

When students direct their own education in consultation with intensively engaged faculty advisors, they learn to think independently, explore questions from multiple points of view, and develop habits of critical thinking that are hallmarks of a liberal education. Wesleyan upholds the principle that student choice fosters the drive to explore freely and seek connections across courses, generating the intellectual excitement that can fuel liberal education as a lifelong pursuit. With the freedom to sample liberally from across the curriculum, students are able to experience the surprise of unexpected ability in fields new to them and to make fruitful connections across subject areas that do not traditionally intersect. This can generate innovative depth of study and new ways of seeing—with students posing questions from one discipline to the assumptions of another.

MAJORS, MINORS, AND CERTIFICATES AT WESLEYAN — AREAS OF STUDY

With a large variety of majors, minors, and certificates (http://
www.wesleyan.edu/academics), Wesleyan students have the opportunity
to work at the highest level, discover what they love to do, and apply their
knowledge in meaningful ways.

MAJORS

Wesleyan University is dedicated to providing an education in the liberal arts
that is characterized by boldness, rigor, and practical idealism. At Wesleyan,
students have the opportunity to work at the highest levels, discover what they
love to do, and apply their knowledge in ways the world finds meaningful. While
Wesleyan has no core requirements, the University has established General
Education Expectations that are designed to encourage breadth within the student educational experience. Students select courses in consultation with advisors, creating customized itineraries of study in three intellectual spheres: the arts and humanities (HA), the social and behavioral sciences (SBS), and the natural sciences and mathematics (NSM).

ACADEMIC ADVISING

An academic advisor is assigned to each first-year student from faculty who are
either teaching a course the student will take in the first year or teaching in a
field in which the student has expressed interest. Once a student declares a
major, the advisor is assigned from that department or program. Students, with
the help of faculty advisors, typically put together an academic itinerary that includes lecture-style courses, smaller seminars, laboratories, and performance courses. Every student is given the opportunity to take a seminar course specially designed for first-year students. These first-year seminars (FYS) vary dramatically
—from presenting the work of a specific thinker to introducing an unfamiliar area
of study—but all tend to emphasize the importance of writing at the university

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level and the methods used to collect, interpret, analyze, and present evidence as part of a scholarly argument. Faculty teaching these classes highlight the type of writing associated with their respective disciplines and help students improve how they develop, compose, organize, and revise their written work. Each FYS is limited to 15 students.

**WESMAPS AND WESPORTAL**

WesMaps (http://www.wesleyan.edu/wesmaps) is the indispensable online guide to the curriculum used by students to map their academic schedule each semester. WesPortal contains both personal information added by students and official information that helps track their progress toward fulfilling General Education Expectations, majors, and University requirements. WesPortal is an important advising tool for students and their faculty advisors. WesPortal applications provide students with online access to their course schedule, grades, academic history, Moodle, course registration, student accounts, campus events, and more. Using these applications, students and their advisors are able to make informed decisions leading to a thoughtful academic experience.