EDUCATION STUDIES MAJOR

MAJOR DESCRIPTION
The Education Studies Major is designed to help students acquire a deeper understanding of education and its relationship to society. Through a range of courses across the curriculum, students look critically and analytically at educational institutions, practices, and thinking, from early childhood through adulthood, using local, national, and global lenses. Foundation courses provide a theoretical background on philosophy, history, and psychology of education. Further requirements empower students with the knowledge, tools, and skills for analyzing different aspects of education, on topics such as human development and cognition, pedagogy and curriculum, and sociocultural approaches to the study of education. Students complete a methods course relevant to education studies as well as a practicum experience to gain hands-on experience complementing their academic work.

Education Studies is a linked major. It can only be declared and completed in addition to a primary major. There are no restrictions on the choice of a primary major. Students are encouraged to declare the Education Studies linked Major in spring of the sophomore year. Late declarations of the Major will be accepted through spring of the junior year.

SUPERVISING FACULTY
STEVEN E. STEMLER (HTTP://WWW.WESLEYAN.EDU/ACADEMICS/FACULTY/SSTEMLER/PROFILE.HTML)
Associate Professor of Psychology

ANNA SHUSTERMANN (HTTP://WWW.WESLEYAN.EDU/ACADEMICS/FACULTY/ASHUSTERMAN/PROFILE.HTML)
Associate Professor of Psychology

ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR
Students intending to major in Education Studies should simultaneously submit a Major request and a POI for admission to the Sophomore Gateway course, which will be taught in the second half of spring term (4th quarter) every year. The POI request will include a brief application in which students will articulate their reason for wanting to join the Education Studies Major; their prior experience; their primary major; their goals in Education Studies and beyond; and affirmation that they understand the Major requirements.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
Students must take a minimum of 10 credits plus a practicum experience equivalent to at least .5 credit. Students may choose to focus within an area or spread their interests widely. There are no pre-designated tracks or concentrations. Some courses can count toward different requirements, but students need to choose which requirement is being fulfilled by which course: an individual student cannot use the same course to fulfill multiple requirements toward the Major. However, students can use the same course to fulfill requirements in two majors (for example, a cross-listed course in ITAL and EDST could count for both the EDST and ITST majors).

COHORT COURSES
Students must take two courses, one just after declaring the Major and one in the fall of senior year, that will (1) function to build a cohort in the College of Education Studies, (2) help students make sense of the interdisciplinary contributions to Education Studies, and (3) help students understand the faculty, research, and resources in Education Studies at Wesleyan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDSTXXX</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDST301</td>
<td>Senior Seminar in Education Studies #</td>
<td>1</td>
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* Gateway course (course will be listed in the fall) - normally taken in sophomore spring; can be taken junior spring for students who enter the Education Studies Major late.

# Taken in the fall of senior year.

FOUNDATIONS COURSE
Students must take one foundational course in Education Studies that broadly covers the field.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDST230</td>
<td>Schools in Society</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC253</td>
<td>Educational Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC244</td>
<td>Feminist and Queer Theories of Social Reproduction</td>
<td>1</td>
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BREADTH COURSES
Students must take one course in each of three core areas of Education Studies. There are multiple options across the curriculum for each category.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 1: Cognition, Development, &amp; Science of Learning</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 2: Social and Structural Analyses of Education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 3: Research Methods &amp; Data Analysis</td>
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ELECTIVE COURSES
Students round out their Education Studies coursework with electives, in any combination of courses in the Foundation or Breadth categories.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elective: Other courses in Foundations, Cat 1, Cat 2, Cat 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BROADER CONTEXTS COURSE
Students take one course that addresses broad theoretical influences on how systems of knowledge are understood, constructed, transmitted, and changed. This course should sharpen students’ ideas about what is taught, why it is taught, and how it is taught in the current U.S. or other contexts.

1 credit Broader contexts: see attached list
**PRACTICUM COURSES OR EXPERIENCES**

Students must complete two aspects of a practicum experience: pedagogy and practice. They must take a minimum .5 credit course focused on pedagogy; there are several .5 and 1 credit courses with this focus offered at Wesleyan.

.5 credit  
Pedagogy

Students must also complete a teaching practicum/in-school experience with a minimum of 20 hours of student contact; the practicum experience can be taken for credit or not for credit, as long as the 20 hour requirement is met.

.5 credit or equivalent  
Practicum / In-school experience (20 hour minimum of student contact)

Students can meet both portions of the requirement separately, or they can meet them with a single 1-credit course (i.e., a service learning course that provides 20 hours of student contact and covers elements of pedagogy). Apart from service-learning courses, many options exist to fulfill the practicum requirement through JCCP programs, summer programs, teaching apprenticeships, and internships while studying abroad. Newly formalized partnerships (i.e., Mid-Wes Collaborative) help to create, support, and sustain these opportunities.

**STUDENT LEARNING GOALS**

1. Understanding the foundations of Education Studies including history, theory, and philosophy of key movements and approaches (e.g., formal and informal education; experiential education; privatization movements; canon; relationship between schools and education)
2. Understanding of, and ability to apply, critiques of educational systems, policies, and practices from the lens of equity, opportunity, power, and transformative justice (e.g., civil rights; global education; gender; race; class; and disability)
3. Understanding the science and psychology of learning as a framework for examining education
4. Understanding of the relationship between culture and education, and between different cultures and their education systems (e.g., multiculturalism and multilingualism; globalization; goals of education within a culture or country; comparative studies of education systems, immigrants’ experiences in unfamiliar systems)
5. Understanding education as an art as well as a science or system (developing a practical art of teaching, imagining critical generative interventions and experimental approaches to education including embodied arts practices or relationship making)
6. Practice applying one or more methodological approaches to research questions in education (e.g., quantitative and experimental methods; qualitative data collection; archival research; data science and ‘big data’ approaches; historiography; pedagogical research)
7. Practice working in and connecting theory to real-world educational settings (e.g., educational practice, advocacy, critique).

**STUDY ABROAD**

Many study abroad programs are appropriate for Education Studies majors and offer courses that could be used in the service of the major.

The Education Studies homepage maintains a list of study abroad programs ([https://www.wesleyan.edu/education/for-minors/Study%20Abroad.html](https://www.wesleyan.edu/education/for-minors/Study%20Abroad.html)) that are relevant to Education Studies and that offer courses students could use to fulfill major requirements. Students are encouraged to study abroad if that makes sense for their educational goals, but are not required to do so. Education Studies faculty are supportive of study abroad experience for many reasons, particularly the broad cultural perspective that it affords.

**PRIZES**

Four Education Studies fellowships (equivalent to science research fellowships) will be awarded to students each year for faculty-supervised research.

**TRANSFER CREDIT**

Foundation, Gateway, and Senior Seminar courses will have to be taken at Wesleyan. All other course requirements can be fulfilled with transfer credits. Courses that fit logically into one of the Category 1, 2, or 3 courses will count toward those requirements. Courses that do not fit logically into Category 1, 2, or 3 but cover content relevant to Education Studies will count toward electives. There will not be restrictions on how many courses can be transferred. The Chair(s), in consultation with Core faculty, will determine course transfers.

**HONORS**

Following Wesleyan’s guidelines for Departmental Honors, students in Education Studies will need to meet two requirements to be eligible for Departmental Honors in Education Studies.

1. Either a minimum GPA of 85.0 in Education Studies OR endorsement of two Core faculty in Education Studies; and
2. Completion of a Thesis that is determined by the thesis advisor and the second reader to meet the standards for honors or high honors.

**CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE**

Students will have many opportunities for capstone experiences within the Major: (1) senior Honors Theses; (2) individual and group tutorials supervised by Education Studies faculty; (3) annual fellowships to conduct mentored research in Education Studies; (4) a capstone Senior Seminar to weave together the threads of the interdisciplinary program of study; and (5) internships, fellowships, and practica to try out academic theories in real world settings.