



WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Individualized Studies

Program Guide



Create Your Own Path with Individualized Studies at WSU

At Winona State University, the **Individualized Studies program**—available as both a major and a minor—empowers you to design a degree as unique as your goals, passions, and experiences. Whether you're a self-directed learner, a returning student, or someone whose ambitions don't fit neatly into a traditional major, this program offers the flexibility and support to help you thrive.

Why Choose Individualized Studies?

WSU offers over 60 undergraduate programs across five colleges: Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Nursing & Health Sciences, and Science & Engineering. But what if your vision spans multiple disciplines? That's where Individualized Studies comes in.

This program allows you to:

- **Design a Custom Degree:** Combine courses from different fields to create a personalized academic path that aligns with your career and life goals.
- **Build on What You Know:** Leverage your prior learning, work experience, and passions to shape a meaningful and relevant degree.
- **Learn Your Way:** Choose from online, hybrid, or in-person classes to fit your schedule and lifestyle.
- **Earn Credit for Experience:** Apply college-level learning gained through life and work toward your degree through Prior Learning Assessment (PLA).

Your Goals, Your Way

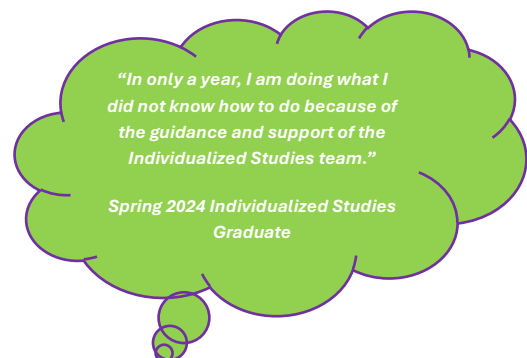
Whether you're looking to:

- **Advance in Your Current Career**
- **Land Your Dream Job**
- **Start or Grow Your Own Business**
- **Explore New Interests**
- **Return to School with a Purpose**

...Individualized Studies gives you the tools and freedom to make it happen.

The Individualized Studies program graduates are making a difference across industries and communities nationwide. With the support of dedicated advisors, faculty, and student services, you'll have a team behind you every step of the way.

Real Students. Real Impact.



Take the Next Step

At WSU, your success is our priority. If you're ready to take control of your education and shape a degree that reflects who you are and where you're going, the Individualized Studies program is here for you. We're here to support your journey—every step of the way.

Is the Individualized Studies Degree Right for You?

The **Individualized Studies program** at Winona State University is ideal for students ready to take charge of their education and design a degree that reflects their unique goals and experiences. This program may be a great fit if you:

- **Want to combine multiple disciplines** into a cohesive, thematic degree that aligns with your academic and career aspirations.
- **Are a working adult** seeking to complete a bachelor's degree to advance professionally or achieve personal or vocational milestones.
- **Need a custom minor** in an area where a traditional minor isn't available.
- **Require flexible course options**—including online, hybrid, and in-person formats—to balance school with work, family, or other life commitments.

When It Might Not Be the Best Fit

While the program offers exceptional flexibility and personalization, it may not be suitable for everyone. You might want to consider other options if:

- **You're still undecided** about your major or career path. A clear vision is essential for designing a meaningful and goal-oriented degree.
- **You prefer structured guidance** over self-directed learning. This program requires initiative, independence, and strong organizational skills.
- **Your career requires a specific degree or licensure.** For example, if you plan to become a licensed teacher, this program does not meet the requirements for teacher certification.

At Winona State University, your success is our priority. If you're ready to take control of your education and shape a degree that's as unique as you are, the Individualized Studies program is here to help.



Still Unsure? [Let's Connect](#)



Program Requirements

The **Individualized Studies program** at WSU is an excellent option for motivated, self-directed students—especially adult learners—who want to design a degree tailored to their unique goals. The program is available as a **major or minor** and can lead to a **Bachelor of Arts (BA)** or **Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)** degree.



Bachelor of Arts (BA) – No Minor Required (INDS)

Total Major Credits: 49

- **INDS 300: Academic Planning & Career Foundations (3 credits)**
Grade of C or better required
 - **INDS 495: Capstone Experience (3 credits)**
Grade of C or better required
 - **34 upper-division elective credits** (300–400 level, excluding INDS 300 & 495)
 - **9 elective credits** from any level (100–400)
 - **Up to 9 credits** may be taken Pass/No Credit (P/NC)
 - **40 credits must be unique** to the major
 - Completion of **WSU General Education & Intensive Requirements**
 - **Minimum GPA: 2.0** and **120 total credits**
 - **30 credits must be completed at WSU** during junior/senior years
 - Must be **enrolled in at least 1 WSU credit** during the graduation semester
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Bachelor of Arts (BA) – With Required Minor (INDM)

Total Major Credits: 36

- Same core requirements as above:
 - INDS 300 (3 credits)
 - INDS 495 (3 credits)
- **24 upper-division elective credits** (300–400 level)
- **6 elective credits** from any level (100–400)
- **Up to 9 credits** may be taken P/NC
- **27 credits must be unique** to the major
- Completion of **WSU General Education & Intensive Requirements**
- **Completion of a minor is required**
- **Minimum GPA: 2.0** and **120 total credits**
- **30 credits must be completed at WSU** during junior/senior years
- Must be **enrolled in at least 1 WSU credit** during the graduation semester

Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) – No Minor Required (INDP)

Total Major Credits: 49

- Same core requirements as BA (INDS):
 - INDS 300 (3 credits)
 - INDS 495 (3 credits)
 - **34 upper-division elective credits** (300–400 level)
 - **9 elective credits** from any level (100–400)
 - **Up to 9 credits** may be taken P/NC
 - **40 credits must be unique** to the major
 - Completion of **WSU General Education & Intensive Requirements**
 - **Minimum GPA: 2.0** and **120 total credits**
 - **30 credits must be completed at WSU** during junior/senior years
 - Must be **enrolled in at least 1 WSU credit** during the graduation semester
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Minor in Individualized Studies (INDS)

Total Credits: 21

- **INDS 300: Academic Planning & Career Foundations (3 credits)**
Grade of C or better required
 - **12 upper-division elective credits** (300–400 level)
 - **6 elective credits** from any level (100–400)
 - **Up to 9 credits** may overlap with your major or General Education Program (GEP)
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Planning Your Path

Your **DARS (Degree Audit Reporting System)** is your most accurate and up-to-date resource for tracking degree progress. Be sure to work closely with your **academic advisor** to ensure all program and university requirements are met.

INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES

Your degree. Your success. Your way!



Individualized Studies Program: Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: Explore Your Options

Considering a major or minor in Individualized Studies? Start by meeting with one of our academic advisors. They'll help you explore how the program aligns with your interests and career goals, and answer any questions you may have.

This handbook provides detailed information about the program, but if anything is unclear, don't hesitate to [reach out](#).

- **Former WSU students:** Please complete the [Re-enrollment Request Form](#).
 - **New to WSU?** We invite you to [apply](#) and begin your academic journey with us!
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Step 2: Declare Your Major or Minor

There is no formal application process for the Individualized Studies major or minor. If you're a current student, simply complete the [Declaration of Major or Minor](#) form to update your academic records.

Step 3: Develop Your Student Program Plan

All Individualized Studies students must create a **Student Program Plan**, which is a personalized academic roadmap tailored to their career and educational goals.

- This plan is developed as part of **INDS 300: Academic Planning and Career Foundations**.
- We recommend enrolling in INDS 300 as soon as possible after declaring your major or minor.
- If you can't take INDS 300 right away, you may begin drafting your plan in consultation with your advisor.

Your [Student Program Plan](#) must be approved and on file. It includes:

- Basic Student Information
- Rationale
- Curriculum Design
- Course List
- Learning Outcomes
- Occupational Outlook

Step 4: Complete Your Courses

Follow your approved Student Program Plan to complete your coursework. If you need to make changes, update your plan before graduation.

- Meet with your advisor each semester before registering.
 - Consider internship opportunities to enhance your experience.
 - Refer to the course information section for more details.
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Step 5: Apply for Graduation

Once you've registered for your final term, submit your **online graduation application**.

- All graduation requirements must be completed or in progress at the time of application.
 - Use your **DARS report** to verify your progress.
 - If anything is missing, schedule a meeting with your advisor.
 - If you plan to register later (e.g., for an internship or practicum), note this in the comments section of the application.
 - You can also list any transfer courses you plan to complete in your final term.
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Experiential Learning Opportunities

Internship Courses

Internships are a valuable component of the Individualized Studies program. They offer hands-on experience, skill development, and professional networking opportunities that can significantly enhance your career readiness. We strongly encourage you to include an internship in your academic plan.

Getting Started

Finding the right internship takes time—start your search several months in advance. If you're unsure where to begin, reach out to your Individualized Studies advisor for guidance.

Credit Options

Course Code	Title	Credits	Grading
INDS 398	Internship	1-3 SH	Letter Grade
INDS 399	Internship	1-9 SH	Pass/No Credit

Note: INDS 398 and INDS 399 may be combined for a maximum of 12 credits (majors) or 6 credits (minors).

Credit Hour Conversion: Approximately **40 hours of internship work = 1 academic credit**

Eligibility

To enroll in an INDS internship course, you must:

- Be an Individualized Studies major or minor
- Have completed at least **60 total credits**, including **21 upper-division credits**
- Obtain **departmental approval**

Additional Options

Some academic departments at WSU allow non-majors to complete internships through their department. Consult with your advisor to explore this possibility.

For general internship resources, visit the [WSU Career Services Internship page](#).

Independent Study

Interested in exploring a specialized topic not covered in the standard curriculum?

An **Independent Study** allows you to dive deeper into an area of personal or professional interest.

Getting Started

Speak with your Individualized Studies advisor to discuss your idea and begin the approval process.

Eligibility

- Must be an Individualized Studies major or minor
- Must have completed **INDS 300**
- Requires **departmental approval**

Course Option

Course Code	Title	Credits	Grading
INDS 499	Independent Study	1-6 SH	P/NC or Grade