

SCHOOL OF INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

Phone: 703-993-1436
Website: integrative.gmu.edu

About the School

The School of Integrative Studies (SIS) values an integrative and interdisciplinary approach that invites both undergraduate and graduate students to connect research, theory, and practice across multiple disciplines and experiences. Students connect academic interests with hands-on learning to prepare for a life and career with meaning and impact. Based in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, SIS focuses on critical and creative thinking, engaged scholarship and diversity in thought. Graduates will lead the way as a new brand of professionals whose understanding of the liberal arts and commitment to a just world can build the cross-sector approaches necessary to solve pressing global, social, and environmental problems.

An integrative, interdisciplinary learning environment, SIS offers the benefits of small, discussion-based courses while providing access to the academic resources of a large public research university. Drawing on its award-winning faculty, SIS provides students with transformative experiential learning opportunities including internships, field and international study, and independent research and service. Both the structure and curriculum of SIS prepare graduates who are engaged, well-rounded scholars who consistently assume leadership roles in the fields of business, law, government, healthcare, education, and the non-profit sector, among others.

Undergraduate Programs

The School of Integrative Studies offers a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of science degree in integrative studies, a bachelor of arts in human development and family science, and a bachelor of arts in environmental and sustainability studies (joint degree with Environmental Science and Policy in the College of Science). The school also houses the Bachelor of Individualized Study program.

The integrative studies curriculum is based on intensive, interdisciplinary learning communities, coordinated with traditional academic programs. The result is an integrated program of study that emphasizes collaboration, experiential learning, and self-reflection. All students complete their degree programs with an interdisciplinary concentration.

The Human Development and Family Science (HDFS) program focuses to educate students through quality instruction and experiential learning in lifespan human development and family science by fostering critical thinking and the research, communication, and career-ready skills that prepare them to become professionals in service to individuals and families.

The environmental and sustainability studies degree provides students with theoretical and practical knowledge of three aspects of environmental and sustainability studies: people, prosperity, and planet. In addition to required core courses, students develop more in-depth knowledge in one of six concentrations. This degree prepares students for employment and graduate study in fields related to social justice, business and public policy, and environmental protection as they relate to the environment and sustainability.

The bachelor of individualized study (BIS) program is a degree completion program for adult learners. BIS offers students transfer credit

options and a distinctive educational opportunity to integrate other college-level learning, such as professional or military experience, into university coursework. Students create interdisciplinary concentrations to meet their own educational needs including to advance professionally, to prepare for graduate or professional programs, or to plan a path toward a career change.

Minor Programs

The School of Integrative Studies offers minors in childhood studies, human development and family science, leadership, non-profit studies, social justice and human rights, and well-being. All are available to students in any major in the university.

Transfer Students

The School of Integrative Studies welcomes transfer students from other four-year institutions or community colleges, as well as from other academic units within Mason. Academic advisors work with students to utilize transfer credits and create a plan for timely completion of the bachelor's degree. All transfer students are required to take INTS 391 Understanding Integrative Studies within their first two semesters and meet with an academic advisor as soon as possible.

Graduate Programs

The School of Integrative Studies is home to the master's of arts in higher education and student development and the master's of arts in interdisciplinary studies (MAIS), as well as graduate certificates in college teaching with a concentration in higher education pedagogy and in higher education administration. In addition, the doctor of philosophy in education with a specialization in higher education (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/school-education/education-phd/#text>) is offered jointly by the School of Integrative Studies and the College of Education and Human Development.

Faculty

School Faculty

Professor

Al Fuertes (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/afuertes/>)
Pamela Watkins Garner (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/pgarner1/>)
Wendi N. Manuel-Scott (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/wmanuels/>)
Kelly Schrum (<https://higher.ed.gmu.edu/people/kschrum/>)
Kenneth Thompson (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/kthomps4/>)

Emeritus Professors

Michael R Gabel (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/mgabel/>)
John S O'Connor (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/joconnor/>)

Associate Professors

P Daniel Chen (<https://higher.ed.gmu.edu/people/pchen23/>)
Cher Weixia Chen (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/wchen12/>)
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Elizabeth Freeman (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/efreeman/>)
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Chrystal A. George Mwangi (<https://higher.ed.gmu.edu/people/cgeorgem/>)

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Mark Thurston (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/mthursto/>)
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Thomas C Wood (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/twood/>)
Aoi Yamanaka (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/ayamanak/>)

Assistant Professors

Sophia Balakian (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/sbalakia/>)
Hideko Hamada Bassett (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/hhamada/>)
David Powers Corwin (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/dcorwin/>)
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Julia Madeleine Shadur (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/jshadur/>)
Levi Van Sant (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/cvansan/>)

Instructor

Kelly Dunne (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/kdunne/>)
Misty Krell (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/mkrell/>)
Sharon Spradling (<https://integrative.gmu.edu/people/sspradli/>)

Programs

- Childhood Studies Minor
- College Teaching Graduate Certificate (SINT)
- Conservation Studies Minor (CHSS)
- Environmental and Sustainability Studies, BA (CHSS)
- Higher Education Administration Graduate Certificate
- Higher Education and Student Development, MA
- Human Development and Family Science Minor
- Human Development and Family Science, BA
- Individualized Study, BIS
- Integrative Studies, BA
- Integrative Studies, BS
- Interdisciplinary Studies, MAIS
- Leadership Minor
- Nonprofit Studies Minor
- Social Justice and Human Rights Minor
- Well-Being Minor