

Service-Learning

The Service-Learning Program combines classroom experience with service to the metropolitan community and increases student appreciation of civic engagement. Participating students receive credit for appropriate public service, which is beneficial to the community and expands student horizons in intellectually and personally meaningful ways.

Emerging from a wide variety of disciplines, service-learning courses are structured by faculty to weave service into community-based and government agencies, with classroom reflection and analysis of the learning offered through these experiences. The courses are also designed to address real needs in our multicultural world, such as homelessness, at-risk youth, domestic violence, the environment, culture and the arts, and mental illness. Agencies that have provided service opportunities include Fort Logan Mental Health Center, the Denver Commission on Aging, Big Sisters, the Colorado Historical Society, the Rape Assistance and Awareness Program, numerous elementary and high schools, and senior centers and nursing homes.

Service-learning credit is available in most academic majors and minors. Prerequisites and other requirements vary with each department. To learn how to participate in this program, including discussions of placement options, students should contact or visit the Service-Learning Program office to schedule an interview: 1045 Ninth Street Park; 303-556-3290.

Mentoring Program

Mentoring internships offer students intensive work experiences with mentors in business or industry. Students earn credit in the major or the minor for the learning that takes place in these unpaid positions that provide opportunities for initial work experience in various competitive fields under the guidance of established professionals. The mentors provide interns with résumé enhancing experience and often help the students with decision making. Students should contact or visit our office to schedule an interview: 1045 Ninth Street Park; 303-556-3290.

SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Honors Program

The Honors Program provides an academic program for highly motivated students with broad academic interests. The program provides honors sections of General Studies courses, interdisciplinary courses and courses within the majors and minors.

Honors courses are small in order to encourage class participation and enhance the relationship between students and faculty members. Honors classes are designed to promote independent thought and creative inquiry. The Director of the Honors Program and the Honors faculty provide academic advising and serve as mentors to students as they consider their post-graduate goals. The Honors Program serves as a Learning Community at Metro State. The program encourages Service Learning, sponsors an annual Honors Conference, and offers study-abroad courses which allow students to explore ideas outside the classroom. A student who completes 24 semester hours of honors courses, including the Senior Thesis, will receive honors recognition on his/her transcript. Students admitted to the Honors Program are eligible to apply for an Honors Scholarship.

All students are welcome to apply to the Honors Program. An Honors application form may be obtained from the Honors Program Director or the Honors Web site. Additional information on the Honors Program is available by calling 303-556-4865/ 303-352-4183, by visiting West Classroom 147, or by seeing www.mscd.edu/~honors.

REQUIRED COURSES	SEMESTER HOURS
HON 2750 The Legacy of Arts and Letters I	3
HON 2760 The Legacy of Arts and Letters II	3
HON 4950 Senior Honors Thesis	3
<i>Subtotal</i>	9

50 SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Track I: The General Studies focus of this track provides students with a strong foundation of knowledge and creative inquiry valuable for students in majors across the college.

Required Courses	9
Honors General Studies courses	12
Honors Electives	3
<i>Total Hours Required</i>	<i>24</i>

Track II: This track includes courses in the major and/or minor, allowing flexibility for those students entering the Honors program with all or most of their General Studies fulfilled.

Required Courses	9
Honors Electives	15
<i>Total Hours Required</i>	<i>24</i>

Individualized Degree Program

As a large, urban, undergraduate institution of higher education, Metropolitan State College of Denver has a commitment to respond to specific educational goals of a diverse student population. The Individualized Degree Program enables the College to meet that commitment in three ways:

- It offers students the opportunity to collaborate with faculty to design an individualized major, extended major or minor to meet their own specific educational goals when other majors or minors listed in the catalog do not.
- The IDP serves as an incubator for faculty to use to develop new academic programs to meet emerging needs in the community and workplace. The IDP as incubator provides faculty with the opportunity to track demand and to experiment with the relevant curriculum prior to submitting the new program for review through the established curriculum approval process.
- A specific IDP concentration may be offered where there is a need for an interdisciplinary major or minor which does not fall within the purview of existing academic departments. An interdisciplinary core not to exceed 50% of the minimum credit hours required provides the foundation upon which the student and faculty mentor build an IDP program to meet the students educational goals.

Each student works with an advisor in the Center for Individualized Learning and with a faculty mentor to develop a proposal for his/her degree program. A practicing professional in the student's field of study may also be invited to serve as a community consultant to assist the student and the faculty in the development of the program of study. Because careful and thoughtful planning is essential to designing a coherent and congruent program of study, students are encouraged to begin their proposals early in their enrollment at Metro State. IDP proposals must be submitted no later than the semester prior to the semester the student intends to graduate.

Either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science degree in Individualized Studies may be sought.

Interested students should contact the Center for Individualized Learning, 303-556-8342, for assistance and for complete information regarding the policies and procedures for the development and approval of an Individualized Studies major or minor. Information sessions are the first step in the process, and are held throughout the year.

Each Individualized Studies major or minor is approved by the faculty mentor, Center advisor, department chair from the academic department from which the majority of credit is drawn, the appropriate dean, and the director of the Center for Individualized Learning.

- All requirements that apply to any bachelor's degree apply to Individualized Studies.
- A grade of "C" must be earned in each course included in the student's major or minor, and students must have a GPA of 2.5 before an Individualized Studies program may be approved.
- The title for each student's program will be Individualized Studies with an emphasis in ____.
- Majors may not include courses in Level II General Studies and may not include courses with the same prefix as the department from which the majority of credit is drawn for their major, or courses cross listed with that discipline.
- No more than 30 hours of credit from the School of Business may be included in the student's degree plan. In some cases this limit may be exceeded with the approval of the appropriate department chair and dean of the School of Business.

- Each Individualized Studies major or minor must include courses that have not yet been completed at the time the proposal is approved. See each IDP option below for the specific number of credits that must be completed after the proposal is approved by the department chair.

Proposals may be submitted for:

- An Individualized Studies standard MAJOR, which requires a minimum of 40 credit hours, including 21 hours of upper-division credit. Fifteen (15) hours must be completed after the proposal is approved by the department chair. A minor chosen from the *Catalog* is required.
- An Individualized Studies MINOR, which requires a minimum of 20 credit hours, including 6 hours of upper-division credit. Six (6) hours must be completed after the proposal is approved by the department chair. A major chosen from the *Catalog* is required.
- An Individualized Studies EXTENDED MAJOR may be proposed when the student's field of study requires more in-depth study or courses from multiple disciplines that cannot be accommodated in an IDP major. An extended major requires a minimum of 60 credit hours, including 27 hours of upper-division credit. Twenty-one (21) hours must be completed after the proposal is approved by the department chair. No minor is required.

International Studies Concentration in IDP

Students wishing to pursue a major in international studies may do so by choosing the Individualized Degree Program (IDP) International Studies Concentration. This concentration requires core courses in the field of international studies and provides the flexibility for each student to select courses from across the College to develop a coherent academic program that meets the student's own specific educational goals within the broader area of International Studies.

Through the International Studies Concentration students gain an understanding of international and intercultural relations and dynamics, and gain the skills and knowledge necessary for their specific chosen careers as those careers exist within an international context. The program also provides preparation for a graduate program in international studies, and students may include prerequisites for other graduate programs of their choice.

Students may choose to develop a proposal for an IDP major or an IDP extended major. Each is developed in consultation with a faculty mentor and the Center for Individualized Learning and must be approved by the faculty mentor, appropriate department chair, appropriate dean, Center advisor and the Center director. Students in this program follow the basic requirements and process for all IDP majors. The process for developing the IDP proposal and selecting the remaining courses is outlined on page 53 of this *Catalog* and is available at www.mscedu/~cil.

A minimum of one year of study of a modern language other than English is required and students are strongly encouraged to complete at least two years of study in the same language. Students who are already proficient in a language other than English as demonstrated by successful completion of an approved proficiency examination will be exempt from the requirement. Students are advised to research the possible entry language requirements of any graduate programs in which they might be interested and plan their programs accordingly.

An appropriate study abroad or a local or regional experience with an international focus is required as a part of the individual student's proposal.

Prerequisites

These courses can be used to satisfy General Studies requirements. As for all IDPs, courses with the same prefix as the department from which the majority of credit is drawn for the major (or cross listed with that discipline) may not be included in Level II General Studies.

COURSES	SEMESTER HOURS
ECO 2010 Principles of Macroeconomics.....	3
-or-	
ECO 1040 A Citizen's Guide to Economics.....	3
PSC 1020 Political Systems and Ideas	3

52 SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

International Studies Concentration Core

REQUIRED COURSES		SEMESTER HOURS
ANT 1310	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	3
ANT 2330	Cross-Cultural Communications	3
- or -		
ANT 3300	Exploring World Cultures: Variable Topics	3
GEG 1000	World Regional Geography	3
HIS 1040	World History since 1500	3
- or -		
HIS 2010	Contemporary World History	3
PSC 3030	Introduction to International Relations	3
PSC 3340	International Political Economy	3
-or-		
ECO 3550	Global Economics and International Trade	3
<i>Total for Core</i>		18

The senior experience may be selected from approved senior experiences listed in the *College Catalog Addendum* online. If no approved senior experience is appropriate for the student's program, a senior level course, internship or independent study that meets the criteria for senior experiences may be chosen with approval of the faculty mentor, chair, Center director and dean. Approval of a senior experience is not a separate process but is considered in the review and approval of the student's major proposal.

Some courses in the core may be applied to General Studies requirements. In that case, students will choose other courses in collaboration with their advisors so that the total number of credit hours in the major reflect the requirements for an IDP major or IDP extended major as listed below.

An IDP major requires a minimum of 40 credit hours (including the core), 21 of which must be upper division. Fifteen hours must be left to complete when the proposal is approved. A minor from the Catalog which will complement the student's proposed major is required. Minors from the School of Letters, Arts, and Sciences; the School of Business, or the School of Professional Studies are all appropriate, depending on the individual student's interests and future plans.

An IDP extended major requires a minimum of 60 credit hours (including the core), 27 of which must be upper division. Twenty-one hours must be left to complete when the proposal is approved. A minor is not required for the extended major, but students will choose other related coursework appropriate to their specific goals to meet the requirements for the IDP extended major.

Reece Learning Communities

Metropolitan State College of Denver has created a comprehensive first-year experience for provisionally admitted students via the Reece Learning Communities (RLC). Students in the RLC will be enrolled in courses specifically designed to be learning communities. One of the courses that all students will be required to complete, within a RLC, will be the Freshmen Success Course (FSC). This course would help first-year students adjust to the college, develop a better understanding of the learning process, and acquire essential academic success skills. The FSC will also include presentations by staff from academic affairs and student services regarding programs, resources and other support services currently provided at Metro. Students enrolled in the RLC will be provided with academic support via several approaches including tutoring, supplemental instructors, and peer educators.

INTERNATIONAL & INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

Metropolitan State College of Denver is committed to providing all students with a strong educational foundation that enhances their understanding of the total human experience. Through the following programs, students and faculty have opportunities to develop and participate in activities designed to promote a greater understanding and expertise in global issues. Metro State seeks to maintain a positive environment that enhances the learning experiences of international students.

Individualized Degree Program

Students interested in pursuing an interdisciplinary major or a minor in international studies may do so through the Individualized Degree Program (IDP) concentration in International Studies. Students, in collaboration with a faculty mentor and the Center for Individualized Learning design a course of study that best meets their needs. In addition to a core curriculum of 18 hours, students choose from a wide range of courses dealing with international topics that are regularly offered to complete a major or minor. Contact the Center for Individualized Learning at 303-556-8342 or see www.msdc.edu/~cil.

Study Abroad Courses

Metro State offers a variety of short-term and semester-long study abroad courses each year. During the past several years, these courses have been held in Mexico, England, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Central America, Russia, and Egypt. These courses are generally directed by full-time Metro State faculty, are two to five weeks in duration and are available to eligible students. Assistance is provided to students who choose to participate in study abroad courses offered by other U.S. or foreign universities.

The College operates two semester-abroad programs in Guadalajara and London. These are offered in cooperation with the University of Guadalajara and the American Institute for Foreign Study/Richmond College partnership. Students must be in good academic standing in order to participate in these programs.

Contact the Office of International Studies (303-556-2545) for information regarding the latest offerings.

International Student Services

Metro State provides a variety of services to international students attending the College. These include counseling on visas, school transfers, work permission and housing; conducting academic and cultural orientation sessions; assisting with immigration issues; providing information to embassies and sponsors; advising on academic issues; and organizing social and cultural events. International students should contact the Academic Advising Center.

Special Events

Metro State regularly organizes conferences, seminars, and lecture series to promote intellectual discourse on issues affecting the contemporary world.

Community Connections

Metro State maintains links with numerous local and national organizations and professional associations dealing with international, educational, economic, social, and cultural activities with a view to strengthen college-community partnerships and to remain current with the latest developments in the area of international education.

Language and Culture Institute

The Language and Culture Institute was established in 1976 to organize study and travel abroad. The institute currently operates a summer program in Mexico and a winter study and travel program in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and in Central America. The institute offers credit through the Modern Languages Department.

THE GENERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Philosophy of the General Studies Program

Metropolitan State College of Denver seeks to prepare its graduates for a lifetime of learning, which, in our changing and complex society, requires focused expertise (such as that provided by a major area of study) and the ability to communicate with and learn from experts in other fields. Undergraduate education fosters the critical thinking necessary for the exploration of unfamiliar disciplines, for the synthesis of learning, and for exposing students to the richness and variety of the intellectual universe.