The Minor in Education, Learning, and Society (ELS) offers students at the University of Washington the opportunity to explore the idea of education from multiple perspectives and disciplines.

Understanding the dynamics of education allows informed citizens to make moral decisions about the organization of society, the generation of new knowledge, the distribution of resources, the choices for schooling, the availability of health care, responses to climate change, and more. The ELS Minor attempts to organize a series of classes and experiences that will allow students to better understand these ideas and to use these new skills and dispositions to make the world a better place.

“The ELS minor has given me the chance, as an undergraduate, to explore the field of education through classes and fieldwork. It has exposed me to different areas of education aside from teaching and has made me more aware of educational issues.”

ALLIE SILBER, ELS MINOR

“In just a short time, the ELS Minor has helped me define my educational and career goals, helped me start networking, and made me more determined than ever to attend the UW’s College of Education for my graduate degree.”

MAIA WILLIAMS, ELS MINOR
CORE IDEAS

1. A scientific view of learning,
2. Using moral and ethical lenses to understand equity,
3. Dedication to the notions of diversity,
4. Belief in service as a valuable vehicle for learning,
5. Commitment to inquiry, and
6. Belief in personal agency and the importance of democratic and global citizenship.

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY FOCUS

THE ELS MINOR IS INTERDISCIPLINARY BY NATURE AND DESIGN.

- ELS is a joint offering of the College of Arts and Sciences, the intellectual core of the University, and the College of Education, one of the top ranked Education programs in the country. This gives it extensive and rich curricular options.
- Students from nearly every undergraduate major can complete the ELS minor.
- Students may count up to 10 credits from their majors toward ELS requirements. Students thus gain disciplinary knowledge in their majors by studying education through the lenses of those majors. For example, CHID and Sociology majors can satisfy the Schooling and Society requirement through courses in their majors.
- Students may also overlap any number of credits with their General Education requirements. For example, a History major can explore approved courses in Anthropology, or English, or other academic disciplines that satisfy both ELS and General Ed Requirements.

HANDS ON EXPERIENCE

The ELS minor encourages practical application of what students learn about learning and education in the educational settings that align with their interests. All students must complete a Field Experience. Most do this in K-12 settings through Pipeline or the Dream Project. Others opt to work with pre-kindergarteners through Jumpstart, or with college students, or with other populations such as refugees and immigrants.

ARE YOU A CANDIDATE?

Anyone interested in pre-K through 12 education, post-secondary education, or curious about the role of education in our society can benefit from the minor. Additionally, while the minor is not a requirement to apply to the UW (or other) teacher education programs or certification programs, there are several elements that make it attractive. For example, some of the courses that meet ELS requirements or electives are also pre-requisites to applying for the UW Master in Teaching program.

"I am deeply proud of our phenomenal students, who impress me every day with their passion for improving this world. Students in the minor excel academically and make friends for life with their peers and cohort members. The minor is one of our most exciting, engaging programs of study."

TOM STRITIKUS, DEAN OF THE UW COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

"Whether you plan to teach in K-12, pre-school, or college settings, you’re better equipped to teach if you have the depth and breadth of exceptional liberal arts education offered by the UW. Our faculty put students in contact with educational settings and issues as a key part of their curriculum, offering opportunities to participate in study abroad programs, practicum experiences, and citizenship programs in public schools. Partnering these experiences with explicit education about education, particularly learning how people learn, and how to help them learn, makes the ELS minor deeply valuable."

JUDY HOWARD, DIVISIONAL DEAN IN THE UW COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

REQUIREMENTS SECTION

REQUIREMENTS

The ELS minor requires 31 credits in 5 areas: Learning and Development, Schooling and Society, Field Experience, the Colloquium, and Electives. Course requirements change periodically. Please check the website for the most up to date information or consult the ELS adviser.

Learning and Development (5)
- EDPSY 304 Learning & Teaching in our Changing World
- EDPSY 402 Child Development & Learning
- NURS 201 Growth & Development Through the Life Span
- PSYCH 206 Human Development
- PSYCH 306 Developmental Psychology

Schooling and Society (5)
- AES 340 Race, Ethnicity, and Education
- CHID 210 The Idea of the University
- EDUC 305 The Purpose of Public Schools in a Democracy
- EDUC 310 Current Issues in Education
- SOC 292 Who Gets Ahead? Public Schooling in America

Field Experience (5)
- EDUC 360 Dream Project
- EDUC 401 Pipeline
- GEN ST 346 Jumpstart
- GEN ST 470 Undergrad Peer Instructor Practicum
- Other – includes departmental TA & tutoring, plus internships and research in educational settings. Talk with an ELS adviser.

Colloquium on Learning, Education, and Society (1)
- EDUC 299

Electives (15)
- Please visit the website for updated list of approved courses.

NOTE: Students must meet pre-requisites before enrolling in any classes listed above

CONTACT INFORMATION
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