Education Studies, BS

Wisconsin Experience

Wisconsin Experience

UW–Madison’s vision for the total student experience, the Wisconsin Experience (https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/about/), combines learning in and out of the classroom. Tied to the Wisconsin Idea (https://www.wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea/) and steeped in long-standing institutional values — the commitment to the truth, shared participation in decision-making, and service to local and global communities — the Wisconsin Experience describes how students develop and integrate these core values across their educational experience.

UW–Madison encourages students to mindfully engage in four core concepts throughout their time on campus: Empathy & Humility, Relentless Curiosity, Intellectual Confidence, and Purposeful Action (https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/intellectual-confidence/).

Since its inception, the School of Education has embraced the concepts of the Wisconsin Experience, providing opportunities for students to learn in venues beyond the traditional classroom. Our students also independently seek out related activities and experiences, thus creating their own unique Wisconsin Experience.

Education Studies and the Wisconsin Experience

Education Studies (ES) coursework is enhanced by supplemental activities — in and beyond the classroom — that extend what students are learning in course texts and discussions.

Guest Speakers

Many Educational Policy Studies (ED POL) courses feature guest speakers, including prominent scholars from universities across the globe, local educational leaders from community-based organizations and school districts, and educational policymakers. The Department also hosts speakers who highlight cutting-edge research, policy debates, careers, new developments in education (https://eps.education.wisc.edu/about/conferences/), and examples of how educational research informs policy and practice.

Additional Majors and Certificates

Many Education Studies students pursue a second major and/or certificates that complement the skills and knowledge they’re gaining via their Education Studies coursework and experiences.

Volunteer and Leadership Experiences

Education Studies students often volunteer and assume leadership roles on campus and/or within the broader community. They may take Community-based Learning (CBL) courses in EPS that enable them to integrate what they’re learning in the classroom with what they’re learning as volunteers in local educational spaces, such as schools, the United Way (https://www.unitedwaydanecounty.org/), Centro Hispano (https://www.micentro.org/), Goodman Center (https://www.goodmancenter.org/), and other organizations.

Career Development and Internships

Our department encourages career development beyond our classrooms by offering internships and courses such as ED POL 202 Careers in Education that prepare ES majors to pursue careers post-graduation.

Leadership and Mentoring in the ES Community

ES majors develop leadership skills through programs like the ES Ambassadors Program, in which students advise Educational Policy Studies faculty and staff, and recruit new students via course presentations and participation in departmental events. Incoming and transferring Education Studies majors are invited to partake in our Education Studies Buddy program, where they will be paired with a Junior or Senior Education Studies major for guidance and mentorship. Students contribute actively to building a supportive intellectual community in the major.

Awards

Awards in the ES program, including the Outstanding Research in Education Studies Award, the Outstanding Paper in Educational Studies Award, and the Eric Flanagan Community-Engaged Scholarship Award, recognize undergraduate excellence.