What is Pathways?

Pathways is the general education curriculum at Virginia Tech. As a central component of the undergraduate experience, the Pathways curriculum will allow you to examine the world from multiple perspectives and integrate your knowledge across various disciplines. Along with the coursework required for your major, you will complete credits from nine Pathways concepts (seven core concepts and two integrative concepts).

Core Concepts

You will complete a total of 45 credits across seven Pathways core concepts. The number of credits required per concept is listed below.

1. **Discourse**
   - 9 credits
   - 6 Foundational (1f) + 3 Advanced (1a)

2. **Critical Thinking in the Humanities**
   - 6 credits

3. **Reasoning in the Social Sciences**
   - 6 credits

4. **Reasoning in the Natural Sciences**
   - 6 credits

5. **Quantitative and Computational Thinking**
   - 9 credits
   - 6 Foundational (5f) + 3 Advanced (5a)

6. **Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts**
   - 6 credits
   - 3 Design (6d) + 3 Arts (6a)

7. **Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States**
   - 3 credits
   - (may be double-counted with another core concept)

Integrative Concepts

Each Pathways course also meets at least one integrative concept, ensuring that you complete your general education with competency in both ethical reasoning and intercultural and global awareness.

- **Ethical Reasoning**
  - Throughout

- **Intercultural and Global Awareness**
  - Throughout

How do you fulfill your Pathways requirements?

There are a number of options for satisfying your Pathways requirements. You may have already fulfilled credits through high school AP/IB courses or transfer credits. Some of the required coursework for your major will likely also fulfill Pathways credits. For the remainder, you may choose individual courses or complete a compatible Pathways minor (see the following pages).

Visit the Pathways website to search for classes by concept or to view an alphabetical list of Pathways courses: [https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/about/pathways-guides.html](https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/about/pathways-guides.html).

Lean more about Pathways at [https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu](https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu).
Fulfill your General Education requirements while earning a minor!

Which general education requirements are satisfied by your major?*

- Foundational Discourse (1f)
- Reasoning in the Social Sciences (3)
- Reasoning in the Natural Sciences (4)
- Quantitative and Computational Thinking (3 credits of 5f & 5a)
- Critical Analysis of Identity & Equity in the US (7)

*Requirements may vary slightly based on your year of entry; consult the checksheet or your advisor to confirm.

But what about your other requirements?

- Advanced Discourse (1a)
- Critical Thinking in the Humanities (2)
- 3 credits of Foundational Quantitative and Computational Thinking (5f)
- Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts (6d & 6a)

A Pathways minor can help you fulfill the requirements that are not met within your major!*

Use the table below to find which minors best complement your gen ed needs. On the following page(s), you can find one or more (of many!) possible examples of how your major and a Pathways minor can work together to fulfill your requirements. Have specific questions about meeting your requirements? Reach out to your advisor!

*Note: Any courses in your core degree requirements can count towards your minor requirements, but cannot count towards your Pathways requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minor</th>
<th>Pathways Concepts in Minor*</th>
<th># of Credits in Minor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adaptive Brain &amp; Behavior</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Cultures &amp; Environments</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity Conservation</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Planet</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Agriculture &amp; Food Systems</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate &amp; Society</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data &amp; Decisions</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabilities Studies</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecological Cities</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecosystems for Human Well-Being</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event &amp; Experience Management</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Business Practices to Improve the Human Condition</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Food Security &amp; Health</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Communication</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and Society</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Security</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Sciences</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials in Society</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Leadership</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathways to Sustainability</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace Studies &amp; Social Justice</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy, Politics, and Economics</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, Technology, &amp; Law</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Communication</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology, Humans, and Environment</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts &amp; Society</td>
<td>1a 2 3 4 5f 6a 7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table lists all possible concepts that could be met within the minor; students are guaranteed to fulfill at least three concepts, and potentially more depending upon electives.

You can explore each of these minors in more detail at https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/minors.html.
Wondering how a Pathways minor can complement your CPED major? Using the Disabilities Studies (DSST) minor as an example, the diagram below illustrates how your major and a minor can work together to meet your gen ed needs. Use the table on page 2 to identify other minors that interest you!

Pathways Requirements
Pathways requires you to complete credit hours across seven core concepts. If you’re an CPED major, you will fulfill concepts 1 (foundational), 3, 4, half of 5 (foundational), 5 (advanced), and 7 in your program.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses that satisfy major requirements</th>
<th>Courses that satisfy minor requirements</th>
<th>Electives outside of major and minor requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1105</td>
<td>Discourse</td>
<td>Elective of your choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1106</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD 1134</td>
<td>Critical Thinking in the Humanities</td>
<td>STS 3284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 1004</td>
<td>Reasoning in the Social Sciences</td>
<td>SOC 1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL1014 or BIOL 1105</td>
<td>Reasoning in the Natural Sciences</td>
<td>BIOL 1054 or BIOL 1106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1014</td>
<td>Quantitative &amp; Computational Thinking</td>
<td>STAT 3604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective of your choice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The following non-Pathways courses also satisfy requirements or electives in both the major and minor: HD 1004, HD 4714, HD/EDCI 3944.

DSST Minor Requirements
The Disabilities Studies minor includes 12 credit hours of required foundational courses, 6 credit hours of electives, and a 3-credit hour capstone course, for a total of 21 credit hours. Together, these required and elective courses offer numerous possible avenues for completing Pathways concepts 2 and 6, as illustrated in the diagram to the left.

- **Required Courses**: 12 credits
- **Electives**: 6 credits
- **Capstone Course**: HD 4714

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses that satisfy major or minor requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis of Identity &amp; Equity in the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective of your choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking in the Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STS 3284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasoning in the Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 1004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reasoning in the Natural Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1054 or BIOL 1106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discourse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective of your choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective of your choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis of Identity &amp; Equity in the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HD 1134</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 1004</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL1014 or BIOL 1105</td>
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<td>MATH 1014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective of your choice</td>
</tr>
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*The following non-Pathways courses also satisfy requirements or electives in both the major and minor: HD 1004, HD 4714, HD/EDCI 3944.*