

PATHWAYS MINORS

DISPLACEMENT STUDIES

What is it?

Our world is shaped by the movement of people, but the reasons for and impact of migration and displacement are not well understood. The Displacement Studies minor explores notions of place, identity, and narrative in thinking about issues of displacement, relocation, belonging, and rootedness. Students will learn about various factors that contribute to displacements, such as civil war, climate change, globalization and labor, redlining, eminent domain and other forms of forced human displacement. The minor foregrounds the experience of refugees and migrants while also providing an integrated approach across the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences to contextualize and discuss the variety of social, political, economic, cultural, and ecological factors related to the displacement and relocation of humans and other species.



Photo: Members of the VT student organization, Primeros Pasos, celebrating the success of their mentees. Primeros Pasos mentors at-risk youth at Galax City High School.

Why do it?

This minor provides classroom and experiential learning that is essential for addressing unscripted, “wicked” problems that cannot be solved with simple solutions. Students develop critical thinking skills by analyzing the complicated and intersecting causes of displacement, as well as the complex histories of refugees, migrants, and asylum-seekers.

Who is it for?

The Displacement Studies Minor is for civic-minded students from any major who are committed to social justice, community engagement, and approaching problems creatively and collaboratively. Competencies and skills developed through this minor are transferable to a wide range of academic, professional, and civic settings.

Pathways Core Concepts*

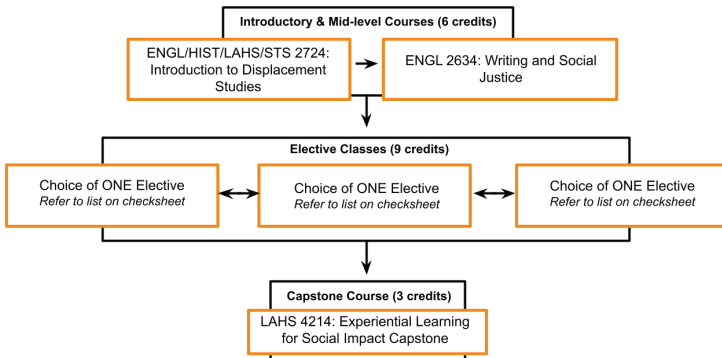
- 1a - Advanced/Applied Discourse
- 2 - Critical Thinking in the Humanities
- 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences
- 4 - Reasoning in the Natural Sciences
- 5f - Foundational Quantitative and Computational Thinking
- 7 - Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States

Pathways Integrative Concepts

- Ethical Reasoning
- Intercultural and Global Awareness

*At least three of these core concepts will be completed, but concepts will vary depending on elective choices.

The 18-hour minor in Displacement Studies includes 6 hours of required introductory courses, 9 hours of electives across multiple departments, and a required 3-credit capstone course.



ENGL/HIST/LAHS/STS 2724: Introduction to Displacement Studies
ENGL 2634: Writing and Social Justice
LAHS 4214: Experiential Learning for Social Impact Capstone

Students select 9 hours of elective course, with choices from sociology, economics, forest resources and environmental conservation, history, geography, international studies, political science, and public and international affairs, among others. For a complete list of elective courses, consult the academic catalog (<https://catalog.vt.edu/undergraduate/minors/>).



- Develop the skills necessary to listen to the experiences of displaced populations
- Interrogate the societal structures, institutions, and government policies that contribute to the displacement of vulnerable human and non-human populations
- Work closely with faculty and staff in VT's Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies
- Work with groups like Elimisha Kakuma, Blacksburg Refugee Partnership, and Primeros Pasos