

BACHELOR OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Degree: BIS (Bachelor of Individualized Studies)
Major: INDS (Individualized Studies)

Every student who completes the requirements for the BIS degree at Virginia State University graduates as an Individualized Studies (INDS) major. This is the major that will appear on your official University transcript.

Every student in the BIS degree, however, has to choose a specialization. This specialization reflects your particular area of academic interest and focus and must include a minimum of 30 hours of course work including the Senior Research Project (INDS 499). A minimum of 15 of these specialization courses must have been earned at VSU at the upper level. Although all of the courses listed on the specialization page do not have to have the same course prefix, the courses must logically fit together.

Theoretically, a BIS degree student may select any specialization as long as VSU offers course work in that area. There are two specializations, however, that require special attention and restrictions:

1. **Business** If you select business as a specialization, you will not be allowed to take more than 27 semester hours of course work in “traditional business subjects”¹
2. **Teacher Preparation.** If your goal is to become endorsed to teach, you have two options.
 - a. We can design a curriculum that includes all of the **content** courses required for endorsement as listed in the *Virginia Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*. You will NOT, however, apply for admission to the teacher education program and take the upper level Professional Studies courses required for licensure. (You may take EDUC 100 and PSYC 214.) You would have to complete the remaining Professional Studies Requirements upon completion of your baccalaureate degree.
 - b. We can design a curriculum which includes all of the **content** courses required for endorsement as listed in the *Virginia Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* and all of the Professional Studies courses required for licensure. You will also be required to complete the Application for Admission to the Teacher Education Program and meet those requirements. Upon satisfactory progress and passing scores on state assessments, you can then apply to student teach. Completion of the Professional Studies courses includes the requirement of student teaching. If you select this option, you will not be allowed to graduate until you have completed all of the requirements for licensure.

¹ The following are considered “traditional business subjects”: Accounting, Business Law, Decision Sciences, Finance (including Insurance, Real Estate, and Banking), Human Resources, Management, Management Information Systems, Management Science, Marketing, Operations Management, Organizational Behavior, Organizational Development, Strategic Management, Supply Chain Management (including Transportation and Logistics), and Technology Management.