

Minor in Education, Learning, and Society (ELS)

Tom Stritikus and Paul LePore

Overview

The 31-credit minor in Education, Learning, and Society (ELS) is intended to provide a strong background in how human beings learn, and how society, environment, and culture shape that learning. This minor is jointly sponsored by the College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences. This proposal was developed as part of the Teachers for a New Era (TNE) initiative, a five-year grant award to the University of Washington to help improve teacher preparation and enhance the connections among the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, and P-12 schools and teachers.

In developing this minor, we hope to address a number of key curricular issues. Specifically:

- a. There are a significant number of students interested in the field of education both as an area of study as well as a possible career path through P-12 teaching.
- b. One of our most critical goals is to diversify the teacher education pool; one strategy is to recruit directly from the existing undergraduate student population. This minor would provide one important avenue for recruitment.
- c. As part of our TNE initiative commitment, CoE and A&S have agreed to share responsibility for teacher preparation along the continuum of teacher preparation and development. This minor would constitute a shared initiative between CoE and A&S and give students an opportunity to explore their interest in teaching prior to graduate school.

Course Requirements

The ELS Minor includes the following requirements: 5 credits in ***Learning and Development***, 5 credits in ***Schooling and Society***, 5 credits in ***Field Experience***, 1 credit in the ***Colloquium on Education, Learning, and Society***, and 15 credits in ***Electives***. Up to 10 credits of the ELS minor may overlap with the student's major(s) requirements. Up to 5 credits may overlap with the student's other minor(s), if any. The following list of courses has been approved by the ELS Minor Committee; other courses will be added as they are approved. Depending on the number of students who declare an ESL Minor, enrollment in the two required foundation courses will be open to all students until such time as the number increases substantially and requires that enrollment be restricted to declared ESL Minors only.

The minor is in the process of final approval and the full proposal is in the process of being submitted to the Faculty Council and Academic Standards for final approval.