Graduate Certificate in the Learning Sciences

The Certificate in the Learning Sciences provides an advanced understanding of learning in formal and informal environments, integrating perspectives from instructional design and technology, educational psychology, and social foundations. Students who complete the Graduate Certificate in the Learning Sciences will have demonstrated requisite knowledge and skills necessary to conceptualize, design, deliver, and measure effective learning. The Graduate Certificate in the Learning Sciences is appropriate for advanced graduate students considering careers such as higher education faculty, research scientists, educational administrators, funding agency program directors, and policy makers.

Admission Requirements: To complete the Graduate Certificate in the Learning Sciences, students must be enrolled currently and in good standing in any graduate program at Virginia Tech. Students considering the Certificate should consult with faculty in one of the associated programs in the Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies to plan their study to be consistent with prior experience, career goals, and certificate requirements.

Certificate Requirements: Students must take at least twelve credit hours (4 courses) in the options listed below. All students are required to enroll in EDIT 5234, Introduction to the Learning Sciences. Students will then choose one elective (three-credit hour course) from three of the other four categories listed below (Cognition, Design, Social Foundations, and Technology).

a. Introductory Course (Required for Certificate)
   EDIT 5234: Introduction to the Learning Sciences

b. Courses in Cognition
   EDEP 5114: Learning and Cognition
   EDEP 6114: Cognitive Processes and Educational Practice
   EDEP 6224: Constructivism and Education
   EDEP 6444: Motivation and Cognition

c. Courses in Design
   EDIT 5164: Design for Learning*
   EDIT 6334: Applied Theories of Learning*
   EDIT 5224: Principles for Learning Message Design

d. Courses in Social Foundations
   EDEP 5184: Sociocultural Influences on Learning and Instruction
   EDCI 5174: Informal Learning for School Age Youth
   EDCI 6024: The Analysis of Educational Concepts
   EDCI 6044: Classroom Discourse

e. Courses in Technology
   EDEP 6334: Multimedia Cognition
   EDIT 5594: Topics in Learning Environment Design and Development
EDIT 5614: Digitally Mediated Learning  
EDIT 5634: Interactive Learning Media Development

* Prior permission of instructor required for non-degree students outside Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies.

**Application Process:** When students decide to obtain the certificate, they should complete the Application - Certificate (Graduate Certificate Application). This form starts the process, designating the courses that will be taken for the certificate. Applicants should follow the directions on the form for returning it to the Graduate School. During the semester in which the certificate requirements are to be completed, students should complete and return the Application for Degree or Certificate. Both of these forms are available from the “Forms” section of the Graduate School’s home page (http://www.graduateschool.vt.edu/forms/index.html).

**Certificate Faculty:** The following faculty members of the Department of the Learning Sciences are affiliated with the Graduate Certificate in the Learning Sciences:

- Dr. Jennifer Brill, Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies
- Dr. John Burton, Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies
- Dr. Katherine Cennamo, Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies
- Dr. Peter Doolittle, Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies
- Dr. Michael A. Evans, Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies
- Dr. Jim Garrison, Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies
- Dr. Brett Jones, Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies
- Dr. Barbara Lockee, Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies
- Dr. Susan Magliaro, Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies
- Dr. Ken Potter, Department of Learning Sciences and Technologies

For general inquiries regarding the certificate, please contact the Department Chair, Dr. Patricia Kelly (kellyp@vt.edu).