OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM:

The study of folklore/folklife involves examination and analysis of traditional expressive culture in all its forms, including oral, customary, and material. In every society, agricultural and industrial, rural and urban, folklore is a vital part of life. In higher education, then, since folklife is a study of the humanist expression which is handed down by tradition rather than by writing, it is related to all departments that deal with literature, art, and music. Since folklore also deals with the entire traditional culture of mankind as manifested in customs and beliefs, it has close affiliations with anthropology, psychology, sociology, history, philosophy, linguistics, design and pedagogy.

FOLKLORE STUDIES MINOR:

One of the features of the Gabor WV Folklife Center at Fairmont State is a 19-hour interdisciplinary academic minor that can be attached to most liberal arts majors. It is housed in the Department of Language and Literature as part of the College of Liberal Arts. A folklore studies specialization poises the student for graduate studies and professional involvement in such areas as preservation, archiving, teaching, curating, historical parks and museums management, entertainment, and storytelling.

Course Requirements for the minor

19 semester hours

- FOLK 2200 INTRODUCTION TO FOLKLORE ................................................................. 3
- FOLK 2201 FIELD RESEARCH/ORAL HISTORY TECHNIQUES ................................ 1
- FOLK 3300 FOLK LITERATURE (OR ENGL 3387) .................................................. 3
- FOLK 3301 MATERIAL CULTURE ........................................................................... 3
- FOLK 3302 REGIONAL CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY & HISTORY .............................. 3
- FOLK 4400* DIRECTED FOLKLORE STUDY ......................................................... 3–6
- FOLK 4401 FOLKLORE APPLICATION ................................................................. 3

*Only 3 hours are required in Directed Folklore Study, FOLK 4400.
See back for topics in Directed Study.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
www.fairmontstate.edu/folklife

CONTACT INFORMATION
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MINOR IN FOLKLORE STUDIES

TOPICS IN DIRECTED STUDY

- Appalachian African-American Lore
- Appalachian (Regional/Written) Literature and Film
- Archives/Collections Management
- Arthurian Legend: Comparative Folk Literature Study
- Children’s Folklore
- Culture as Education
- Ethnography and Process and Storytelling
- Folk Arts
- Folk Dance
- Museum Studies
- Rural Education
- Traditional Folk Music, Vocal and Instrumental
- Urban and Popular Culture
- Vintage Clothing Preservation
- West Virginia Literature
- World Tale
- Folk 3320 - The Art of Storytelling in Theory & Practice
- Folk 3350 - Special Topics, Roads to Appalachia Study Travel Abroad
- Folk 4998 - Undergraduate Research

* NOTE: If an existing course is available on campus reflecting any of these topics, a student may opt to take it, with the approval of the Folklore Studies director.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Internships in folklore/folklife publications, such as Traditions and Hillchild
- Fall and Spring Gatherings: Demonstrations, Exhibits, Presentations
- Folk Festivals and Summer Celebrations
- Study Abroad Travel Programs: Roads to Appalachia through Scotland and Ireland, Italian Heritage, Wales and Mystical England, Eastern Europe, Germanic Regions/Belgium/Switzerland, and Northern Ireland
- Summer Teacher Institutes in partnership with the West Virginia Humanities Council

Notes: