

BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES

Mission Statement

The Bachelor of General Studies degree program provides interdisciplinary study across academic disciplines and professional fields. It is designed for nontraditional students whose age, residence, academic interests, or career objectives require a more individualized university degree. The Bachelor of General Studies is designed to:

- *meet the University of West Florida's mission to provide students with access to high-quality, relevant, and affordable undergraduate learning experiences, and therefore better serve the general educational needs of region;*
- *provide students an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree while maintaining family, military and/or employment obligations;*
- *offer a degree option including studies in several disciplinary areas;*
- *provide students an opportunity to build upon the associate of arts degrees offered by two-year college.*

Specific Requirements

In addition to the University's general requirements, students must complete a minimum of six (6) hours of "lead" courses from each cognate area (Communication, Information Literacy, Problem Solving/Decision Making, and Community Leadership). In addition, students must choose one of the areas of emphasis in which to concentrate. This will require 24 credit hours from Communication, Information Literacy, Problem Solving/Decision Making, or Community Leadership. A Generalist track will also be available in which students take six (6) hours of lead courses from each area of emphasis for a total of 24 credit hours and an additional 24 credit hours of advisor-approved upper-division electives from across the four areas. Students seeking the BGS degree must maintain a UWF and cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. No more than 24% of the program requirements for this degree may be in traditional business subjects. Finally, students must complete a Capstone course, which may be work or community related.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates who earn the Bachelor of General Studies should be able to do the following:

Content

- Identify and apply key concepts from each of the four cognate areas (Communication, Information Literacy, Problem Solving/Decision Making, and Community Leadership)
- Articulate the rationale for the individualized program of study

Critical Thinking

- Synthesize key concepts across disciplines.

Communication

- Practice oral and written standards of communication appropriate for both academic and professional environments

Integrity/Values

- Practice academic integrity and respect for intellectual property

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

The interdisciplinary nature of the BGS program prepares students to excel in a number of different fields and pursuits. Students have the opportunity to develop individualized programs of study that profit from the expert instruction of faculty from multiple academic areas. Students will be assessed through several measures including quizzes, exams, term papers, oral presentations, online discussion boards, class participation, advising sessions, and most importantly, the Senior Capstone project. Often work- or community-based, the Capstone demonstrates the synthesis of academic content with personal and professional goals. Students must present their project in the Senior Capstone course and are encouraged to participate in symposiums/conferences at UWF, such as the UWF Student Scholars Symposium or the Women's and Gender Studies Conference. Students are required to complete ENC 3213 Professional and Technical Writing during their first semester in the program, which serves as the program Cornerstone course. Work from that course will be evaluated alongside work completed in the Senior Capstone to compare and assess the performance of each individual student at the beginning and end of the program.

Job Prospects for General Studies Students

Manager

Nonprofit Advocate

Teacher

Guidance Counselor

Government and foreign service

Public Relations Officer

Researcher

Writer

Entrepreneur

Salesperson

Find Out More about the Bachelor of General Studies at UWF:

<http://uwf.edu/bgs>