

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)
- Develop an individualized plan of study concentrated on finding possible solutions to a relevant problem

Critical Thinking

- Synthesize key concepts across disciplines as well as among and within each cognate area
- Apply cross-disciplinary knowledge to solving a relevant problem demonstrated through the completion of a capstone project

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
- Exhibit professional behavior appropriate for a community leader

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 on the above content areas through several measures including quizzes, exams, term papers, oral presentations, online discussions 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 at the UWF Student Scholars Symposium, the Women's and Gender Studies Conference, or other symposium/conference of their choice.

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>