

BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES

www.bgs.dcie.miami.edu

Overview

Under the leadership of Collegiate Studies, the College of Arts and Sciences offers the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree program through the DCIE, which provides a solid and rigorous, interdisciplinary academic experience for adult students. It is designed specifically for adults who have previously attended college but have not yet completed their undergraduate degrees, as well as for those who have never had the opportunity to pursue post-secondary studies. Admitted students may attend in either a part-time or full-time status. Prospective students are eligible for admission if graduated from high school at least four years ago, have not attended the University of Miami during the past calendar year, have a minimum of 2.2 grade-point average on previous college work, and are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Students must be pursuing first undergraduate degree.

The BGS curriculum allows an individual the flexibility to design an area of concentration to enhance professional or personal goals. Designed to strengthen critical thinking and writing skills of the students, each course is taught by University of Miami faculty who are committed to the adult student.

Advisors offer personalized attention in career exploration and academic advising and discuss educational alternatives with potential students. Every effort is made to ensure that the process - from admission to registration - is efficient, convenient, and flexible. Students may complete their degree by attending online and on-campus courses.

To underscore its commitment to the adults in our community, the University offers a special tuition to students in the Bachelor of General Studies program which enables the adult, part-time student to pursue this degree at an affordable tuition rate.

The admission process takes into consideration that one's grade-point average, while significant, is only one factor in determining an applicant's qualification for acceptance. Therefore, an advising session with an enrollment advisor from DCIE will be scheduled, by calling Collegiate Studies at 305-284-4000, to supplement the information you provide on the BGS application form (https://bgs.dcie.miami.edu/apply_now/how_to_apply/).

Requirements for Graduation

I. Candidates for the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree must complete the required credit hours and achieve the quality point average specified for students in the University at large as stated in the section Academic Regulations and Procedures. Candidates must earn a C or better in approved classes of their Area of Concentration. Exempted is interpreted to refer exclusively to those exemptions provided under the following headings:

1. Advanced Standing and Placement (Credit Hour Granted);
2. Credit by Examination;
3. Advanced Placement (by proficiency examination);

II. Except where a required course is one designated to correct a deficiency in his/her college preparation, the student may apply the credit hours of any required course from which he is exempted toward the credit hours for that subject as a general requirement for graduation, toward the 120 credit hours required for graduation. (See Departmental Proficiency Examinations.) An exemption may be granted for WRS 105, but these credit hours may not be applied towards the 120 required for graduation.

III. Credit Only

Only free electives may be taken under this option. Courses which satisfy the major, the distributions of the School, the General Education Requirements of the University or any course for which a C or better is required may not be taken for credit only.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
General Education Requirements		
Written Composition ¹		
WRS 105	First-Year Writing I	3
WRS 106 or ENG 106	First-Year Writing II Writing About Literature and Culture	3
Quantative Skills		
MTH 101	Algebra for College Students (with an acceptable score on the math placement test is required or a "C" or better in MTH 099)	3
MTH 113	Finite Mathematics	3
Arts and Humanities		
Select a total 9 credit hours in any of the following disciplines:		9

American Studies in Humanities	
Art	
Art History	
Communications (Motion Pictures)	
Dance	
Theatre Arts	
Musicology	
English	
Philosophy	
Religion or Women's Studies in Humanities	
People and Society	
Select a total of 9 credit hours in any of the following disciplines:	9
African American Studies	
American Studies in Social Science	
Anthropology	
Communication	
Economics	
Education and Psychological Studies	
Geography	
Judaic Studies	
Political Science	
Psychology and Sociology	
STEM	
Select one 3 credit hour course in computer information systems, business technology or media management	3
Select 6 credit hours in one or more of the following disciplines:	6
Biology	
Chemistry	
Geological Sciences	
Environmental Science	
Marine Sciences	
Physics and Physical Sciences	
Degree Requirements	
Additional Arts and Humanities	
Select a total of 12 credit hours in each of the following disciplines:	12
Art History	
Literature	
Philosophy	
Religious Studies	
Foreign Languages	
Select a minimum of 3 credit hours of foreign language at the 200 course level or higher.	3
German	
Portuguese	
French	
Italian	
Spanish	
History Survey Sequence	
Select a total of 6 credit hours in a single two semester sequence	6
Area of Concentration	
Every candidate for a degree must select an area of concentration. ²	30
WRS 333 Writing the Research Paper ³	3
Secondary Focus ⁴	
Select four more secondary courses to compliment AOC (previously Interdisciplinary courses)	12

Electives	
Select elective courses in consultation with their advisor to meet the 120 credit hour graduation requirement	15
Total Credit Hours	120

- ¹ During the first year of enrollment in the School.
- ² The candidate designs an area of concentration that meets his/her professional and personal goals. The course of study is reviewed and approved by the Dean and/or Director of the program. Candidates must earn a C or better in approved classes.
- ³ WRS 333 Writing the Research Paper is a Pre-requisite to completing courses in Area of Concentration and/or Secondary Focus.
- ⁴ Secondary Focus courses are especially designated to complement the AOC, enhance professional knowledge, cultural perspective and its relation to contemporary society.

Mission

The mission of the BGS program is to provide adult learners (over age 22) with a pathway to a high quality, flexibly scheduled undergraduate education tailored to their academic and career goals.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop and present high-quality content using writing conventions appropriate to the audience and purpose of a given context.
- Students will provide a comprehensive analysis of an issue and construct a well-reasoned argument through effective synthesis of sources.
- **Students will engage with credible and relevant scholarly sources that are appropriate to the discipline and genre of writing.**