

General Studies (on campus) • College of Continuing & Professional Studies

About the Program

Overview

The Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree program is open to students who have had one or more years of college and now wish to complete their Bachelor's degree.

The program consists of 120 semester hours, including the University's general education requirements and 45 hours of upper-division courses.

The BGS degree is intended for those students who are not interested in a traditional major. Typically, BGS students are mature, self-directed, and capable of clearly articulating educational, personal and career goals. BGS students develop a plan of study, in consultation with the BGS Advisor, which can be used to enter a number of satisfying careers and/or graduate school opportunities. The degree provides important skill development in a number of areas that have been identified as crucial in a workforce of the 21st century: critical thinking, writing skills and interdisciplinary analyses.

The General Studies Program places the student at the center of educational and career planning. Students develop a clear understanding of how the BGS will further their career and/or educational development. It is recommended that students consult career counselors and/or potential employers before they select relevant courses for the major. Many students also anticipate entering graduate or professional school after graduation and therefore need to construct a plan of study that will qualify them for entrance to those programs. Students need to consult the post-graduate programs of their choice to learn about particular entrance requirements.

Degree Requirements

Special BGS Core Requirements:

BGS 3000 BGS Topics Seminar (Interdisciplinary exploration of global, technological and societal issues)	3 s.h.
ENG 3100 Advanced Composition and Research Strategies	3 s.h.
BGS 4950 BGS Senior Seminar (Interdisciplinary research paper or portfolio and an oral presentation)	<u>3 s.h.</u>
Total	9 s.h.

Upper Division Requirements:

Students must complete a minimum of 45 s.h. at the upper division (3000 and 4000 level) as part of the 120 s.h. required for the degree. This includes all courses taken at the 3000 to 4000 level, such as general education, BGS courses, courses selected in the Plan of Study and electives.

Residency:

Transfer students must earn at least 30 s.h. at Madonna University.

For Transfer Students:

Up to 74 semester hours may be transferred from a two-year institution. Up to 60 hours may be granted through our Prior Learning Program.

Objectives of our BGS Program include:

1. Integration of personal development, liberal arts, and professional/career studies in an individualized plan of study
2. Development of writing skills, critical thinking skills, and interdisciplinary problem-solving skills
3. Emphasis on breadth of academic experience rather than development of a traditional major
4. Inclusion of applied research and interdisciplinary projects
5. Emphasis on global and multicultural perspectives

Students work with the BGS advisor and appropriate faculty members to determine which courses to include in their plan. (Some classes may have prerequisites). Plans of Study are submitted for approval to the BGS Advisory Committee and each student is asked to make a brief presentation to the committee, summarizing their Plan of Study rationale. Once students receive approval of their Plan of Study, they become fully admitted to the BGS Program.

The Plan of Study must identify courses in at least two disciplinary fields. The Plan of Study and rationale must be submitted to the BGS Faculty Advisory Board *before* the student has 24 s.h. left to complete for the degree. The Advisory Board votes for approval or, if necessary, offers recommendations to strengthen the plan in order to gain approval after submission.



For Admissions Information

Office of Admissions
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For Program Information

Edie Woods, Ph.D.
Chair and Professor,
Psychology
(734) 432-5735
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Madonna University reserves the right to withdraw or modify information in this brochure.

See Advisor/Admissions Office for current information.

Madonna University guarantees the right to equal educational opportunity without discrimination because of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disabilities. 2/03

Faculty

James Novak, Dean, College of Continuing and Professional Studies (*B.A. Boston College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Michigan*)

Teaches BGS 3000; BGS Faculty Advisory Committee Member; BGS Advisor (Summer)

Edythe Woods, Chairperson, Professor, Department of Psychology (*B.S., Duke; M.S., Ph.D., Yale University*)

Teaches BGS 4950

Gerald Charbonneau, Sociology/Social Work

(*B.A., Portland State College; M.S.W., Ph.D., Wayne State University*)

Teaches BGS 3000/4950

Member of Academy of Certified Social Workers; member of National Association of Social Workers; State of Michigan Certified Social Worker

Kevin West, Service Learning Director, Department of Sociology; Off-Campus BGS Coordinator (*B.A., Michigan; M.A., Ph.D. Candidate, Wayne State University*)

Teaches BGS 4950, BGS Faculty Advisory Committee Member; Off-Campus Advisor

Selected Course Offerings

Topics Seminar: BGS 3000

An interdisciplinary exploration of topics or themes related to global, technological, or societal issues, focusing on the pervasive long-term implications these issues will have for the future, as well as the human dilemmas that will emerge. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking and interdisciplinary problem-solving skills, particularly in the context of information access and management. This is a writing intensive course, which will provide students with a variety of active learning opportunities: interviews with guest speakers, journal writing, class presentations, and group projects.

Senior Seminar: BGS 4950

Culmination of the BGS student's plan of study resulting in an interdisciplinary project, requiring a research paper or interdisciplinary/multi-genre portfolio and an oral presentation. Students must demonstrate competency in writing, critical thinking, interdisciplinary problems-solving skills, and information management skills.

Advanced Composition and Research Strategies: ENG 3100

Application of advanced writing strategies with emphasis on argumentation; assignments corresponding to research and writing demands of varied academic disciplines including humanities, natural science, social science and business; use of word processing and editing software for writing.