

# Bachelor of General Studies



College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

## The Program

The Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) program at UM-Dearborn is specifically designed for community college graduates who want to further their education and pursue another degree without losing previous coursework. Students entering from community colleges may transfer up to 62 hours of credit; with careful planning, they may obtain the degree after completing a minimum of 58 credit hours at UM-Dearborn. The program is also intended for students who desire a flexible, individualized course of study, and wish to tailor their coursework to career goals and workplace requirements. Students create their own curriculum path, choosing three individual areas of focus, or minors. Students may further customize their education by enrolling in internships or cooperative education.

## Benefits

The benefits of the BGS program are many:

- Individualized curriculum
- Maximum flexibility
- Full credit given for the associate's degree
- Faster degree completion may be possible
- Career and workplace related
- Co-op/Internship opportunities
- A University of Michigan degree

UM-Dearborn's BGS offers several specialized tracks which are listed below. Students can also individualize their degree by choosing three areas of focus from the following:

## Professional Specializations

If you have chosen a career path in management, marketing, social work, public relations, or other such high-demand fields, you may choose from one of the following professional specializations:

### Human Resources

Focuses on the management of human resources in organizations; on the role and development of the manager as a leader, and on the mission and specific functions of the personnel/human resources field.

**Areas of focus:** management; psychology; and communication.

### Consumer Behavior

Develops skills related to careers in market research and analysis, advertising and public relations, sales management, industrial and consumer product management, and promotion management.

**Areas of focus:** management; communication; and psychology, economics, or sociology.

### Human Services

Concentrates on understanding human behavior within a social and organizational context, and is designed as general preparation for a career in human services such as social work, criminology, child development, substance abuse, or gerontology.

**Areas of focus:** psychology; sociology; and anthropology, communication, health policy studies, political science, or women's and gender studies.

### Applied Data Analysis

Focuses on the need to understand and apply information to make decisions within the organization; prepares students to quantify information and teaches modeling and synthesis for evaluation and presentation of information.

**Areas of focus:** applied statistics; management; and any other CASL area of focus.

### Organizational Writing

Provides an organizational context and conceptual framework for the practice of professional writing. Develops writing skills that will be applicable in the areas of industry, media and government.

**Areas of focus:** communication; English; management

### Health Administration

Designed for students interested in administrative careers in the health care industry. Integrates an understanding of broad organizational and management skills with the study of current health policy issues.

**Areas of focus:** health policy studies; management; and communication or psychology.

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Degree-seeking students are required to fulfill the required courses in effect at the time admitted or readmitted to the program. Since these are subject to change, students should see an advisor for current requirements.

## Areas of Focus

You may choose one of the previously mentioned professional specializations consisting of pre-selected areas of focus. Or, you may choose your three areas of focus from the following lists of approved areas:

### Group I — CASL Single-disciplinary Areas

(12 hours at the 300-400 level required in each area chosen. You may choose one, two, or all three areas of focus from Group I.)

Anthropology  
Applied Statistics  
Art History  
Astronomy  
Biochemistry  
Biological Sciences  
Chemistry  
Comparative Literature  
Computer and Computational Math  
Economics  
English  
Environmental Science  
French Studies  
Geology  
German  
Hispanic Studies  
History  
Humanities  
Linguistics  
Mathematics  
Microbiology  
Music  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Political Science  
Psychology (some courses available online)  
Sociology

### Group II — CASL Multi-Disciplinary Areas

(15 hours required in each area chosen. You may choose one, two, or all three areas of focus from Group II.)

African and African American Studies  
Communication  
Criminal Justice Studies  
Earth Science  
Environmental Studies  
Film Studies  
Health Policy Studies  
Law and Society  
Leadership & Communication In Organizations  
Medieval and Renaissance Studies  
Organizational Change in a Global Environment  
(courses available online)  
Religious Studies  
Science and Technology Studies  
Social Science Research Methodology  
Society and Technological Change (courses available online)  
Urban and Regional Studies  
Women's and Gender Studies

## Group III — Areas Outside of CASL

(You may choose only one area of focus from Group III.)

Management (12 hours at the 300-400 level)  
CIS (12 hours 100-200 level + 12 hours 300-400 level)

## Requirements for Graduation

- Distribution requirements consisting of one course in mathematics, one course in the natural sciences, two courses in the behavioral/social sciences, two courses in the humanities, two semesters of English composition, and one diversity course
- Submission of a brief Statement of Rationale summarizing personal, educational, and career goals
- 12-15 upper-division (300 or above) credit hours in each of three areas of focus with a GPA of at least 2.00 in each area of focus
- A minimum of 48 upper-division credit hours, 30 of which must be from the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters
- A minimum of 120 total credit hours (including transfer credit) with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00

## Opportunities for Experiential Education

Among the many career-related opportunities offered to BGS students at UM-Dearborn is participation in experiential education. BGS students have found wide-ranging opportunities in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Cooperative Education Program, including employment in human resources, marketing, underwriting, legal investigation, project management, and information systems. Our students recognize that BGS and experiential education go hand-in-hand, as do BGS and positive career prospects.

One BGS student says, "I found that the BGS degree was very marketable in Co-op and in my search for a permanent job. With BGS, you have more flexibility since you have three different areas of study. Employers are very enthusiastic about the major. It gave me more insight than I would have if I only had one area of study."

## For More Information

For more information about the BGS program:  
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To request an application or obtain more information about admission to the University:

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