



University of Maryland University College

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies
Department of Communication, Arts, and Humanities**

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN
Program Outcomes and Learning Assessment Criteria

Summer 2007

Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies

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Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The General Studies program allows students to take courses in a particular focus area and related disciplines or in an interdisciplinary combination. The General Studies program allows the student to draw from various disciplines that provide a body of knowledge appropriate to an identified area of interest (for example, an aspect of culture, a historical period, or a geographical location). The interdisciplinary approach emphasizes analysis and synthesis of diverse theory and practice.

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PROGRAM OF STUDY

The program of study for the Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies is as follows:

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Communications	12 credit hours
Arts and Humanities	6 credit hours
Behavioral and Social Sciences	6 credit hours
Biological and Physical Sciences	7 credit hours
Mathematics	3 credit hours
Interdisciplinary or Emerging Issues	7 credit hours

CROSS-CURRICULAR PERSPECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

Historical Perspective	3 credit hours
International Perspective	3 credit hours
Civic Responsibility Perspective	3 credit hours

REQUIRED COURSES

Students pursuing a Baccalaureate Degree in General Studies may choose from three program options: In-depth, Interdisciplinary Breadth, or Individual Studies. The requirements for each option are listed below:

In-depth Option

- 18 semester hours in focus discipline
- 9 semester hours in supporting discipline
- 3 semester hours in related electives

Interdisciplinary Breadth Option

- 12 semester hours from first discipline
- 12 semester hours from second discipline
- 6 semester hours from third discipline

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PROGRAM OF STUDY (continued)

Individual Studies Option

Subject to detailed proposal and prior approval

MINOR AND ELECTIVE COURSES

46 credit hours

Minor and/or elective courses are to be taken in the last 60 hours along with required major courses. Refer to the current UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies Catalog for the minor and/or elective course requirements.

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DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The table below identifies the curricular influences that support the program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies.

SOURCES/RESOURCES PROVIDING CURRICULAR FOUNDATION FOR PROGRAM OUTCOMES		
Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies		
SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	WEB ADDRESS OR DOCUMENT NAME (if applicable)
Core Learning Areas of the UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies	<p>All UMUC degree programs are required to imbed identified Core Learning Areas into the program of study. The Core Learning Areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Communication (COMM) • Technology Fluency (TECH) • Information Literacy (INFO) • Quantitative Literacy (QUAN) • Critical Thinking (THIN) • Scientific Literacy (SCIE) <p>The expanded definition for each Core Learning Area was considered in creating the respective program outcome.</p>	UMUC <u>Institutional Plan for the Assessment of Student Learning</u>

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PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies are delineated below. The program outcomes describe the expectations for all graduates of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies.

CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies
	Upon completion of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies, graduates will be able to:
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+
THIN	Develop sound analytical skills and reflective processing of information to enhance problem solving.+
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+

+ Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.

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ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES WITH LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

The following grid aligns the program outcomes of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies with: 1) learning objectives from the designated program coursework and 2) specific methods used to assess student learning within the degree program.

CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT			
Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies			
CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+	Plan and write a research-based essay that makes effective use of resources found in databases available from UMUC's Office of Information and Library Services as well as resources located through Web search engines. (WRTG 101)	Research Paper
		Research, compile, and document relevant, credible information and use it to support ideas presented in your writing. (WRTG 393)	Research Paper
		Collect, select, analyze, interpret, and organize data, and use it appropriately in business communications, including a long formal report. (WRTG 394)	Research Paper
		Conduct a systematic audience analysis and apply it to a report, essay, or research paper. (WRTG 391)	Research Paper
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+	Analyze issues faced by information system professionals, including security, ethical, and privacy problems. (IFSM 201)	Exam (Course/Chapter)

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CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT			
Baccalaureate Degree Program in General Studies			
CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES	LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK	METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+	Select relevant print and electronic sources to answer research questions. (LIBS 150)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+	Solve linear, quadratic, higher-order polynomial, fractional, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and absolute value equations and inequalities. (MATH 107) Develop problem solving skills. (MATH 105 or MATH 106)	Exam (Course/Chapter) Exam (Course/Chapter)
THIN	Analyze issues relating to General Studies across traditional discipline boundaries.*	Relate the impact and experience of modern Asian civilization in the world today. (ASTD 160)	Essay/Writing Task
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+	Recognize the differences and the interrelationships among physics, chemistry, the earth sciences, and astronomy. (NSCI 100) Explain the significance of DNA in determining the composition, characteristics, reproduction, and behavior of an organism. (BIOL 101)	Exam (Course/Chapter) Exam (Course/Chapter)

+ Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.