

THE BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

A FLEXIBLE DEGREE PROGRAM DESIGNED WITH YOU IN MIND

DAY, EVENING, WEEKEND, AND ONLINE




UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
DIVISION of CONTINUING
& INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION



www.miami.edu/bgsdegree





The BGS program at the University of Miami changed my life and taught me that, no matter who you are, you can succeed and conquer your dreams.”

MS. LUISA KIM,
BGS GRADUATE, CLASS OF 2014

What is the Bachelor of General Studies program?

While a bachelor's degree can add significant value to a resume, it isn't always easy for working professionals—especially those with families—to earn one. The University of Miami's Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) program provides a solution with a customizable, degree program that allows adult students to complete their education on their own terms and their own schedule.

Instead of learning within the confines of a traditional college major, BGS students choose an area of concentration, which allows them to map out their own course of study based on personal preferences, current occupations, and future career goals. The program's flexible design encourages creative thought and critical analysis and exposes students to a variety of social and scientific issues—the basis for a well-rounded education. The option to enroll in a blend of daytime, evening, weekend, and online classes ensures that students can create a course schedule that fits their agenda and satisfies their personal and professional aspirations.

How does the BGS program differ from other bachelor degree programs?

BGS students have the unique opportunity to select upper level coursework from numerous University of Miami departments and even blend curriculum from distinct departments to create an individualized area of concentration.

This custom-designed course schedule provides broad exposure to multiple disciplines and furthers personal growth and professional development.

How will I benefit from a University of Miami education and specifically BGS?

The BGS program allows students to enhance their career skills and acquire valuable knowledge as opposed to devoting time to prerequisites and mandatory courses. With total flexibility—and expert instructors to guide them along the way—students can design a course curriculum perfectly suited to both their academic needs and their personal schedules. Between classes, BGS students have access to all of the student facilities on the University of Miami's Coral Gables campus. UM's resources include a large alumni network and a top-notch career center, which can help BGS graduates enhance their resumes and cover letters, connect with local businesses, and explore various career paths and avenues for opportunity.

Is the program right for me?

The BGS program is an ideal choice for:

- » Adults with families or full-time jobs who require flexible college coursework.
- » Adults who started college earlier in life but were unable to complete a degree at that time.
- » Professionals who earned an associate degree but would like to augment their education, enhance their resumes, and increase their potential with a bachelor's degree.

Do students choose a major?

Rather than choosing a major, BGS students select an area of concentration. This allows them to focus on obtaining the knowledge and skills needed for their specific line of work instead of spending time and resources on core classes.



This school is really amazing. It's changed my life in so many ways, in terms of instilling the kind of confidence and motivation that I needed to pursue my academic career."

— KEVIN BROOKS, CLASS OF 2013





How long does it take to complete a BGS degree?

The duration of the program depends on the number of credits a student has earned upon entering the program. A minimum 120 credits are needed to earn the degree, and the last 45 credits must be earned in the BGS program. Students who have completed an associate degree or enroll with 60 or more transferable credits typically earn their Bachelor of General Studies degree in 2 to 3 years.

BGS advisors provide one-on-one coursework selection support to ensure that students earn their credits in an efficient manner and in a timeframe that won't interfere with professional or family obligations.

How can BGS work with my schedule?

The University of Miami appreciates that Bachelor of General Studies students have children, families, obligations and part-time or full-time jobs outside of their classes, which is precisely why the BGS program was designed to provide some much-needed flexibility. Depending on preference and availability, students may select courses from day, evening and weekend schedules; students can even elect to take courses online and complete their coursework from home. For working adults, the non-traditional Saturday Bachelor of General Studies program allows students to earn their degree solely through Saturday classes, leaving weeknights and lunch hours free. BGS students complete their degree at their own pace and consult with advisors to determine a feasible workload and realistic class schedule.

Of course, the most flexible component of the BGS program is the opportunity to design a unique area of concentration: a one-of-a-kind course of study that piques their interest and advances their personal and professional goals.

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Program Format: Campus and Online Courses

Bachelor of General Studies students may attend day, evening, or weekend classes at the University of Miami's Coral Gables campus. Online classes are now available as well, which have been developed by University of Miami faculty.

Required Degree Courses

The BGS degree requires General Education coursework in English, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Humanities, and Interdisciplinary/Secondary Focus studies. No two students will have identical course requirements. To complete the program, students will need 60-65 credits of general education, 30 credits in their area of concentration, 15 interdisciplinary/secondary focus credits, and 15 elective credits.

Students can elect to attend part-time or full time.

Credit Transfers

Undergraduate credits earned from a recognized, accredited institution will likely transfer if the student earned a grade of "C" or better (official transcripts must be provided). If transferring fewer than 30 undergraduate credits, the student must also provide an official high school transcript.

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Tuition and Fees

The University of Miami offers BGS students an affordable, significantly reduced rate. Tuition in the 2017-2018 academic year is \$825 per credit, approximately one-third the regular rate of standard tuition.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Students who submit a free FAFSA application and meet the guidelines set forth by the Office of Financial Assistance are eligible for financial aid. The BGS program also offers scholarships to nontraditional students through the Osher Reentry Scholarship and Englander Scholarship programs.

Admissions Criteria and Prerequisites

- » U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- » Graduated from high school at least 4 years ago
- » Cumulative GPA of 2.2 on all previous college work
- » Not enrolled in another school or college at the University of Miami
- » Student must be at least 22 years of age
- » Student must be pursuing first undergraduate degree

Contact Us

University of Miami

5050 Brunson Drive

Allen Hall, Room 111

Coral Gables, FL 33146

(305) 284-4000 Option #2

www.miami.edu/bgsdegree

BGS UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM

REQUIRED COURSES

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

ENGLISH COMPOSITION (6 CREDITS)

ENG105 English Composition I

ENG106 English Composition II

ART AND HUMANITIES (9 CREDITS)

- » American Studies in Humanities 3 credits
- » Art 3 credits
- » Art History: 3 credits
- » Communications (Motion Pictures): 3 credits
- » Dance: 3 credits
- » Theatre Arts: 3 credits
- » Musicology: 3 credits
- » English: 3 credits
- » Philosophy: 3 credits
- » Religion or Women's Studies in Humanities: 3 credits

PEOPLE AND SOCIETY (9 CREDITS)

Nine credits must be earned in at least two of the following disciplines: anthropology, communication, economics, geography, politics and public affairs, psychology or sociology.

QUANTATIVE SKILLS (6 CREDITS)

MTH101 Algebra for College Students

MTH113 Finite Math

Students must take a math placement examination before registering for MTH101. Substitutions must be approved by the advisor.

STEM (9 CREDITS)

Three credits in Computer Information Systems or Computer Sciences.

Six credits must be earned in one or more of the following disciplines: biology, chemistry, geological sciences, environmental sciences, marine sciences, physics or physical science.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

ADDITIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES (12 CREDITS)

Select a total of 12 credit hours in each of the following disciplines:

- » Art History: 3 credits
- » Literature: 3 credits
- » Philosophy: 3 credits
- » Religious Studies: 3 credits

FOREIGN LANGUAGE (3-9 CREDITS)

Students must take at least one course in a language other than English at the 200-level or higher.

HISTORY SURVEY SEQUENCE (6 CREDITS)

Six credits must be earned in a two-semester history survey sequence.

ELECTIVES (15 CREDITS)

Elective courses may be needed to reach the minimum 120 credits required for the degree. Students should consult with an advisor when selecting electives.

INTERDISCIPLINARY/SECONDARY FOCUS (15 CREDITS)

Each student selects interdisciplinary coursework according to their personal interests. ENG333, "Writing the Research Paper," is mandatory.

AREA OF CONCENTRATION (30 CREDITS)

Each student designs an area of concentration that meets his/her professional and personal goals. Students must earn a "C" or higher and maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA to meet graduation requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: *In any required area of study, applicable pre-requisites must be completed before enrolling in upper division courses.*

PLEASE NOTE: *The University of Miami reserves the right to revise this program as necessary.*

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BGS ONLINE CURRICULUM

SAMPLE COURSES

100-LEVEL ONLINE COURSES

| | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|-----------------------------|
| ARH 131 | Survey of Western Art I | KIN 184 | Athletic and Sport Injuries |
| BIL 101 | Introductory Biological Science | MSC 101 | Survey of Oceanography |
| BIL 104 | Genetics and Society | MTH 161 | Calculus I |
| CSC 118 | Information Technology and Society | PHI 109 | The Superhuman Mind |
| CIM 126 | Intro to Screenwriting | PSY 110 | Introduction to Psychology |
| ENG 105 | English Composition I | REL 101 | Introduction to Religion |
| ENG 106 | English Composition II | THA 101 | Introduction to Theater |
| KIN 155 | Biological Bases for Physical Activity and Health | | |

200-LEVEL AND ABOVE ONLINE COURSES

| | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|--|
| APY 205 | Medical Care in Society | KIN 206 | Sports Facilities and Event Management |
| APY 309 | Evolution of Human Behavior | KIN 403 | Sport Information Management |
| ARH 343 | Modern Art | KIN 490 | Special Topics: Career and Sports |
| BIL 385 | DNA and the Changing World | MMI 274 | Music Copyright Law |
| CIM 386 | Writing the Feature Film | PHI 344 | Philosophy of Mind |
| ENG 210 | Literary Themes and Topics | PHI 345 | Metaphysics: Questions of Existence and Identity |
| ENG 230 | Advanced Business Communication | PSY 240 | Abnormal Psychology |
| ENG 408 | Writing an Autobiography | POL 390 | American Government: Promise and Performance |
| GEG 300 | Human Geography | REL 242 | Religion in Revolutionary History |
| JMM 317 | Broadcast Journalism* | REL 330 | Caribbean Religion |
| KIN 301 | Athletic Injuries & Sport First Aid | SOC 368 | Violence in America |
| KIN 306 | Essential Leadership in Sports and Professions* | THA 302 | People, Places, and Plays |
| KIN 202 | Nutrition | WGS 348 | Mental Illness, Gender, and Psychiatry |

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Questions?

Contact the BGS office at (305) 284-4000. Our academic advisers can answer any questions you may have regarding the program or application process. Likewise, we will gladly schedule an advising appointment to discuss your educational and professional goals.

Start Your Application

To begin the application process for the Bachelor of General Studies program, schedule an advising appointment with the BGS program office and then submit the application and \$75 nonrefundable application fee online.

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