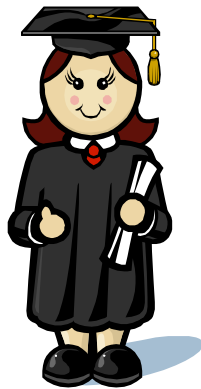


How and When to Choose a Program of Study



Two Kinds of Degrees





Professional Studies Degrees

- In general, these degrees lead directly to employment in specific fields.
- They include degrees in
 - Nursing
 - Health Sciences
 - Criminal Justice
 - Elementary Education
 - Early Childhood Education

Professional Studies Degrees

- Such programs are often highly competitive.
- Several of them have admission requirements that exceed the requirements for admission to the university itself.
- Completion of Pre-Major Courses.
- AS in Clinical Lab. Science: Required 2.0 GPA.
- AS in Rad. Tech: Required 2.3 GPA (3.0).
- BS in Elementary Education: Required 2.5 GPA
- Assoc. in Nursing: Required 2.5 GPA (2.8)

Professional Studies Degrees

- In general, the curricular requirements for such degree programs are more specific and offer fewer opportunities for students to take electives than other degrees do.
- This means that it can be harder to switch to one of these degree programs if one has previously been enrolled in another program and taken a substantial number of courses in that program.

Student Name _____ Advisor |

I. General Education Requirements¹ (28)**A. English Composition (6)**

_____ ENGL 1001	3
_____ ENGL 1002	3

B. Social Sciences (3)

_____ PSYC 2070 ²	3
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C. Mathematics (6)

_____ MATH 1021	3
_____ MATH/STAT/PSYC 2011	3

D. Natural Sciences (7)

_____ CHEM 1001	3
_____ BIOL 2051	4

E. Humanities (3)

_____ CMST	3
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F. Computer Literacy

Requirement may be met through successful completion of CMIS 1000 or through an acceptable score on the computer competency examination . Please check appropriate box.

G. Fine Arts (3)

_____	3
(fine arts, music, theatre)	

II. Major Requirements (36)

_____ NURS 1014/1015	4/2
_____ NURS 1020/1021	2/2
_____ NURS 1025/1026	2/2
_____ NURS 2044/2046	2/2
_____ NURS 2048	2
_____ NURS 2053/2054	2/2
_____ NURS 2057/2059	2/2
_____ NURS 2060/2061	2/3
_____ NURS 2080	3

III. Other Requirements (8)

_____ BIOL 1161	4
_____ BIOL 1162	4

Student Name _____ Advisor N

I. General Education Requirements¹ (30)**A. English Composition (6)**

_____ ENGL 1001	3
_____ ENGL 1002	3

B. Social Sciences (6)

_____	3
_____	3

C. Mathematics (6)

_____ MATH 1021	3
_____ MATH	3

D. Natural Sciences (6)²

_____	3
_____	3

E. Humanities (3)

_____ CMST	3
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F. Computer Literacy

Requirement may be met through successful completion of CMIS 1000 or through an acceptable score on the computer competency examination . Please check appropriate box.

G. Fine Arts (3)

_____	3
(fine arts, music, theatre)	

II. Electives (31)**A. English Elective—2000 or above (3)**

_____	3
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B. Gen. Ed. Natural Science Electives (1-3)

_____	
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C. Gen. Ed Humanities Elective (3)

_____	3
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D. History Electives (6)³

_____ HIST	3
_____ HIST	3

E. Kinesiology Electives (1)

_____	1
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F. Free Electives (15-17)

_____	
_____	



Arts and Sciences Degrees

- Rather than leading directly to employment in specific fields, these degrees equip students with knowledge and skills that can allow them to be useful in a variety of settings.
- BS in Mathematics, BS in Biology, BA in English, BA in History, BA in Communication Studies, BS in Psychology, BS in Business Administration, BLS in Theatre, Bachelor of General Studies.



Arts and Sciences Degrees

- A student with a BA in History, for example, might want to pursue a career in a history-related field (professional historian, museum curator, history teacher, archivist).
- Such a student, however, would also be eligible for employment in many other fields (state or federal government, print media, television, communications, management, business—any field in which the ability to think critically, to solve problems, to communicate clearly, to analyze and interpret data intelligently is important).

Arts and Sciences Degrees

- In general, such degree programs do not have special admission requirements above the requirements for admission to the university itself.
- In addition, the curricular requirements of such programs include more opportunities for students to take electives than the professional programs do.

Arts and Sciences Degrees

- Students who pursue these degrees often acquire the kind of preparation necessary for admission to graduate school or professional schools.
- Many English, History, and Political Science majors go on to pursue careers in law; some Math majors go on to pursue degrees in engineering; biology majors can gain the kind of preparation needed for entrance into professional programs in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and pharmacy.

Arts and Sciences Degrees

- Students who have earned these kinds of degrees sometimes need more help identifying the kind of career they wish to pursue.
- Once they find their niche, however, their broad range of knowledge and skills can allow them to advance quite quickly into positions of leadership within their organizations or institutions.

Degrees held by cabinet officials in current administration

- Tim Geithner, Secretary of Treasury, BA in Government and Asian Studies
- Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense, BA in History
- Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State, BA in Political Science
- Eric Shenseki, Veterans Affairs, Bachelor of Science
- Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security, BA in Political Science
- Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, Bachelor's in Sociology
- Steven Chu, Energy Secretary, BS in Physics and Mathematics
- Eric Holder, Attorney General, BA in American History
- Joe Biden, Vice President, BA in History and Political Science
- Rahm Emanuel, Chief of Staff, BA in Liberal Arts

When to choose a degree program

- Some students do not declare a major upon admission to the university.
- The fact that such students are initially undecided is not a bad thing.
- Indeed, it may indicate that they have an openness and receptivity to learning all kinds of things.
- For such students, the first year in college may be an exciting period of exploration and discovery.

Two Pitfalls





First Pitfall

- Delaying the choice of major for too long can result in students taking courses that they will not be able to apply to their chosen degree programs.
- If this happens, the student may end up taking many more hours than are really need to earn his or her degree.
- Financial aid rules require that a student not attempt more than 150% of the hours required for a particular degree (the ADN program requires 72 hours; therefore, students cannot attempt more than 108 hours and maintain eligibility for financial aid).










Second Pitfall

- Not being willing to reconsider the choice of major can also hurt a student.
- If, for example, admission to a particular program requires an overall GPA of 3.0, and the student's most common course grade is a "C," then, the student should probably begin to look at other program options.
- Students who take courses not required by their curriculum just to raise their GPA can risk becoming ineligible for further financial aid.

GPA Calculator

Course	Credit Hours	Grade
<input type="text" value="ENGL 1001"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="C"/>
<input type="text" value="MATH 1021"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="C"/>
<input type="text" value="BIOL 1001"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="C"/>
<input type="text" value="HIST 1001"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="A"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select"/>
<input type="button" value="Calculate Your GPA"/>		<input type="button" value="Clear"/>
<input type="button" value="Print"/>		<input type="text" value="2.5"/>

GPA Calculator

Course	Credit Hours	Grade
<input type="text" value="ENGL 1001"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="C"/> 
<input type="text" value="MATH 1021"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="C"/> 
<input type="text" value="BIOL 1001"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="C"/> 
<input type="text" value="HIST 1001"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="D"/> 
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select"/> 
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select"/> 
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select"/> 
<input type="button" value="Calculate Your GPA"/>		<input type="button" value="Clear"/>
<input type="button" value="Print"/>		<input type="text" value="1.75"/>

Reasons for choosing a degree program

Good Reasons

- It matches my interests.
- It matches my strengths.
- I know that I can be useful to others if I pursue study in this area.

Bad Reasons

- My best friend is in the same program.
- My mother is an English teacher.
- I can make a lot of money if I graduate from this program.
- There's a shortage of nurses in our area.