



## **GENERAL STUDIES** | COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### **BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES (BGS)**

The Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree program emphasizes the liberal arts and sciences (arts and humanities; the natural sciences; and social and behavioral sciences) as well as the option to supplement one's education with professional and technical courses as electives.

The student takes an active role in constructing a plan of study that will form the basis for achieving career goals. The program can provide the convenience, flexibility and individualized learning experience that will allow students to complete degree requirements at their own pace.

### **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Completion of a BGS requires 120 credit hours with both an Indiana University and General Studies grade point average of at least 2.0. Students must also complete at least 20 credit hours of Indiana University course work after admission to the BGS program.

### **COURSEWORK**

Available courses are a combination of general education courses, including: writing; speech communication; mathematics; computer literacy; sociology; psychology; biology; and history. Choices for electives include courses in criminal justice, education, business, and many others.

- Arts & Humanities – Minimum 12 credits
- Math/Science – Minimum 12 credits
- Social/Behavioral Science – Minimum 12 credits
- Concentration – Minimum of 18 additional credit hours in one of the preceding areas
- Electives – Minimum of 15 credits in Arts & Sciences and 51 credits of general electives

The student must demonstrate competency by taking at least two classes in English composition (ENG W131 and an intensive writing course) and a class in each of the following: public speaking, mathematics,

science with a lab, computer science and diversity. At least 30 credit hours of coursework must be taken at the 300 or 400 level. Students should consult with the department for additional information concerning prerequisites, course content and academic counseling.

### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

The BGS degree program is a popular option for the adult learner who may have entered college some time ago and would like to return to college to complete their degree, or an older adult who would like to begin university studies for the first time.

The General Studies degree program allows credit to be awarded through independent study, distance learning, credit-by-examination, self-acquired competency (credit-by-portfolio), and American Council on Education (ACE)-recommended programs through the military. Through these features, the program provides the convenience, flexibility and individualized learning experience that will allow the student to complete their degree requirements.

### **WHAT CAN I DO WITH A BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES?**

The BGS is a fully accredited, broad-based liberal arts degree without a specific major. It allows students to customize their studies in preparation for job opportunities and graduate school.

### **HANDS-ON LEARNING**

Many BGS students are already employed, but are seeking a promotion or a move to another department, or wish to qualify for a specific career with another company or agency and must possess a baccalaureate degree. Since the curriculum is customized by the student, the opportunities are unique for each graduate.

IU Northwest's BGS graduates include social workers, lawyers, health and medical professionals, law enforcement officers, computer specialists, and company supervisors.

### **CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

General Studies often nominates students for leadership positions in a number of campus student organizations.

### **RELATED DEGREE OPTION**

A student may be awarded up to three minors in fields such as biology, sociology, business administration, health system administration, and more.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Indiana University Northwest  
College of Arts & Sciences  
General Studies Degree Program  
Hawthorn Hall, Room 246

3400 Broadway  
Gary, Indiana 46408

(219) 980-6828  
Email: gkontos@iun.edu