

Bachelor of Arts in General Studies Degree

School of Global Education & Outreach

Affordable

- Pay the same in-state tuition rate regardless of your location.
- With continuous four-year enrollment, your tuition rate stays the same.
- Only 40 semester hours must be upper division from a four-year academic institution.



Online

- Campus attendance is not required to finish your degree. Courses are offered online and at the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses.
- With a selection of minors, you can broaden your area of expertise.



Flexible

- All previous WIU credits count, no matter when they were earned.
- Up to 80 community college credits can be transferred in.
- Military and many other non-collegiate training credits are accepted.



Program of Study

Western Illinois University's Bachelor of Arts in General Studies (BGS) degree program provides students with the opportunity to earn a regionally-accredited, undergraduate, non-majored degree that is affordable, flexible, and available fully online.

The BGS degree program is a non-majored baccalaureate program that requires 120 semester hours, including 40 semester hours earned at the upper-division level. A minimum of 30 semester hours must be earned through Western. The BGS degree may be achieved completely online.

Emphases of Study (Minors)

A personalized program of study is designed by the student in consultation with a BGS advisor. Minors are not required for BGS but may be possible within your degree plan. Academic requirements for minors are identified in the Western Illinois University Undergraduate Catalog at wiu.edu/catalog.

The following online minors are determined each semester by college deans and academic program chairpersons. For an updated list of online minors, see wiu.edu/bgs.

Accountancy
Anthropology
Business
Computer Mediated Communication
Computer Science Microcomputer Applications
Economics
Finance
Fire Administration

Geographic Information Systems
Geography
History
Industrial Technology
Instructional Design and Technology
Law Enforcement and Justice Administration
Management
Marketing

Political Science
Psychology
Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration
Religion
Sociology
Supply Chain Management
Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
Women's Studies

Scholarships

Financial assistance may be available through grants, loans, scholarships, and VA benefits. Actively enrolled BGS students may be eligible for a limited number of alumni scholarships through the BGS degree program. Detailed information on scholarships is available through Western's Scholarship Office at (309) 298-2001 or online at wiu.edu/scholarship.

Military Friendly

Western Illinois University is designated as a Military Friendly School by “GI Jobs” Magazine and is featured in the “Guide to Military Friendly Schools.” In addition, Western has been selected as a Best for Vets College by “Military Times EDGE” magazine.

The BGS degree program serves the unique needs of the military, military veterans, and military families. Through its BGS degree, Western is a Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) and accepts ACE Guide-evaluated military training and CLEP, Excelsior, and DSST examinations.

“Being a nontraditional student, I have work experience that a traditional college student does not have. The BGS program has allowed me to take advantage of this experience and transfer it to college credit. The program has awarded academic credit for my military training and schools, as well as the community college courses I have taken over the years. My experience and credit, along with the flexibility of taking online and evening classes, will allow me to earn my undergraduate degree next year. The academic advisors in the BGS program work hard to help nontraditional students achieve their goals while managing a career. They coordinate with faculty and departments to provide pertinent classes that fit the active lifestyle of students with full-time employment and families.”

–Troy Rhoads



“A few years ago, after several sudden life changes, I needed to be financially self-supporting. I knew this would be very difficult without a baccalaureate degree. After discussing my situation with my academic advisor, we decided a BGS combined with my previous job experience was the quickest and best way to help me realize financial independence. Next semester, I will graduate with minors in both human resource management and pre-MBA. This allows me to work full time and continue to work on a master’s degree, if I choose. Being a nontraditional student is not always an easy journey, but with the encouragement and support of BGS advisors, faculty, and staff, anyone can succeed.”

–Debbie Claeys

Transfer Students

The BGS degree program has partnered with many community colleges in the United States to allow community college students maximum transferability from all associate degree programs to Western’s BGS degree program. A full list of partnerships can be found at wiu.edu/bgs-partnerships.

After Graduation

Graduates of the BGS degree program have successfully gained employment in a variety of business, government, human services, and industrial organizations. Most graduates are already involved in a career and need the academic credential for promotions or other career opportunities. A significant number of graduates continue to post-baccalaureate studies, resulting in graduate degrees or professional certifications. Some graduates earn the degree for personal reasons unrelated to a career or to pursuing advanced degrees.

For More Information

The BGS degree program is housed within the School of Global Education and Outreach. Please contact a WIU-Macomb academic advisor or staff member via email at bgs@wiu.edu or call (309) 298-1929. You may also contact a WIU-Quad Cities academic advisor at (309) 762-3999 or visit our website at wiu.edu/bgs.



wiu.edu/bgs

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