

Bachelor of General Studies in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Why pursue the B.G.S. Liberal Arts and Sciences degree option?

If, as a student, your personal goals are best served by:

- A more broad-based, liberal arts and sciences curriculum with balanced contributions from natural sciences and mathematics, social sciences, and the humanities (requiring exploration in 15 different disciplines in the College).
- The broadest preparation for admission into a professional program.
- An avenue for adding a bachelor's degree to an already existing technical degree or licensure certificate.
- A degree option with maximum flexibility.
- An online KU degree option.
- A degree that provides students the opportunity to build the skills and knowledge employers indicate are required for success in our changing economy and world community — skills that are limited in current college graduates.

The B.G.S. Liberal Arts and Sciences degree option is:

- Not an "Easy Out" degree option. Academic standards are the same for all degrees granted by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
- Not a quick option for a bachelor's degree. (A minimum of 120 hours is required, including degree specific coursework.)
- Not an option in which students may pursue majors or minors in the College.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the International Support Services (<http://www.iss.ku.edu/>) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (<http://credittransfer.ku.edu/>) website.

Requirements to Select B.G.S. Liberal Arts and Sciences Degree Option

CLAS Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) General Education Requirements

General Education provides opportunities for the development of core skills, critical inquiry, integrated knowledge, an appreciation of diversity, contemporary issues, and social responsibility.

B.G.S. Liberal Arts and Sciences Degree Option Requirements

The Bachelor of General Studies degree has two distinct options and requires, in addition to completion of the KU Core*, either:

- **Option A.** Completion of the requirements of a single BGS major AND a secondary field of academic study study (a second degree offered by CLAS or other school, a second CLAS major or co-major, a minor offered by CLAS or another school, or two certificates offered by CLAS or another school);
- completion of an approved career preparation course (minimum 3 credit hours total). A list of currently approved courses can be found here (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/#undergraduatetext>). (<https://collegeadvising.ku.edu/bgs-career-preparation/>)

OR

- **Option B.** Completion of the B.G.S. in Liberal Arts and Sciences, which is also offered as an online degree completion program. This degree program requires:
 - Liberal Arts and Sciences Breadth Requirement. Satisfied by the completion of a course (with a minimum of 2 credit hours) in 15 unique departments/programs within the College or School of the Arts (as determined by course prefix). Courses fulfilling this requirement may also contribute to the KU Core 34 and other requirements.
 - World Language and Culture.
 - 2 courses (each with 3 credit hours or more) in a single world language, or proof of two-semester proficiency in a language other than English, **OR**
 - Completion of 3 courses (each with 3 credit hours or more) designated as KU Core Goal 4.2 (AE42), KU Core 34: Global Culture (GLBC), world culture (W), or non-Western culture (NW); or language areas, beyond the KU Core 34. This may include a variety of areas, languages, and cultures.
 - Additional Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Satisfied by the completion of two additional courses from the natural sciences (requirement code N) and/or mathematics (MATH prefix courses) beyond the KU Core 34.

NOTE: Option B, the BGS in Liberal Arts and Sciences is not an option in which students may pursue a major or minor.

*While the Capstone Requirement can be completed using a course from another major department (prerequisites permitting) LA&S 494 Senior Seminar in Liberal Arts is an approved Capstone course that has been developed for students pursuing the Liberal Arts and Sciences BGS degree.

Minimum hour and grade-point average standards (all CLAS degrees)

- 120 credit hours
- 45 junior/senior credit hours (numbered 300 or above, 30 of which must be taken in residence at KU)
- 2.0 minimum KU cumulative grade-point average

Below is a sample 4-year plan for students pursuing option B of the BGS in Liberal Arts & Sciences. To view the list of courses approved to fulfill Core 34 Goals, please visit the KU Core 34 page (<https://catalog.ku.edu/core/>).

Freshman

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Core 34: English (SGE) ⁰¹⁰	3	Core 34: English (SGE) ⁰¹⁰	3
Core 34: Math and Statistics (SGE) ⁰³⁰	3	Core 34: Communications (SGE) ⁰²⁰	3
Core 34: Arts and Humanities (SGE) ⁰⁶⁰	3	Core 34: Social and Behavioral Science (SGE) ⁰⁵⁰	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
15		15	

Sophomore

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Core 34: Social and Behavioral Science (SGE) ⁰⁵⁰	3	Core 34: Natural and Physical Sciences (SGE) ⁰⁴⁰	4-5
Core 34: US Culture (SGE) ⁰⁷⁰	3	Core 34: Global Culture (SGE) ⁰⁷⁰	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	Core 34: Arts and Humanities (SGE) ⁰⁶⁰	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
15		16-17	

Junior

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Additional Natural Science and Math (1 of 2) ²	3	World Language or Culture (2 of 3) ¹	3
World Language or Culture (1 of 3) ¹	3	Additional Natural Science and Math (2 of 2) ²	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3

Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3

15**15**

Senior

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	3 LA&S 494 (Capstone Course) ³	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
World Language or Culture (3 of 3) if needed ¹	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	3
Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	2	Second Area of Study/ Elective/Degree/Junior-Senior Hours ⁴	2
15		14	

Total Hours 120-121

- ¹ Satisfied by 2 courses (each with 3 credit hours or more) in a single world language, or proof of two-semester proficiency in a language other than English OR satisfied by completion of 3 courses (each with 3 credit hours or more) in world, non-Western culture (AE42, W, or NW designated courses), or language areas. This may include a variety of areas, languages, and cultures.
- ² Additional Natural Sciences and Mathematics satisfied by the completion of two additional courses from the natural sciences (requirement code N) and/or mathematics (MATH prefix courses).
- ³ LA&S 494 is not required for this degree to fulfill the capstone requirement, but is recommended as it is tailored specifically to students completing this degree program.
- ⁴ These elective hours can be used to satisfy the Breadth Requirement for this degree.

Please note:

Additional requirement: Liberal Arts & Sciences Breadth Requirement. This is satisfied by the completion of a course (with a minimum of 2 credit hours) in 15 unique departments/programs within the College or School of the Arts (as determined by course prefix). Courses fulfilling this requirement may also contribute to other requirements.

Option B of the Liberal Arts and Sciences BGS degree is not an option in which students may pursue a major or minor, however, undergraduate certificates may be pursued/completed.

All students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are required to complete 120 total hours of which 45 hours must be at the Jr/Sr (300+) level.

Notes:

* - This course is a Required major course and is also part of Core 34: Systemwide General Education. If this course is not taken to fulfill the Core 34:SGE requirement, it must be taken in place of elective hours.

** - This course is a Recommended Core 34: Systemwide General Education course. This specific course is not required but is recommended by the program's faculty.

*** - This course is a Required Core 34: Systemwide General Education course. This program is approved by the Kansas Board of Regents to require this specific Core 34: Systemwide General Education course. If a student did not take this course it must be taken in addition to other degree requirements.

Graduation with Honors

Undergraduates may earn honors upon graduation in 3 ways. The student may graduate with distinction or highest distinction, earn departmental honors in the major, or complete the University Honors Program (<http://www.honors.ku.edu/>). It is possible to earn honors in 1 of these areas, any combination of them, or all 3. The award of honors is noted on the student's transcript and in the Commencement program. Distinction and highest distinction are noted on the diploma. However, students completing Option B - the BGS in Liberal Arts and Sciences are not eligible to pursue departmental honors, as this degree option does not include a major.

Graduation with Distinction or Highest Distinction

The top 10 percent of each year's graduating class is designated as graduating with distinction. Of these, the top one-third is designated as graduating with highest distinction. To be eligible, students must have completed at least 60 credit hours, graded A through F, in residence at KU.

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Online Programs

For students who are unable to take their coursework on the Lawrence or Edwards campuses, the College Online offers Option B of the Liberal Arts & Sciences BGS degree fully online. Undergraduate certificates and minors are also available online. For more information visit the College Online website (<https://online.ku.edu/>), or contact us directly at thecollegeonline@ku.edu. (thecollegeonline@ku.edu)