

Bachelor of General Studies in Liberal Arts and Sciences

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

If you're a student with personal goals such as:

- Obtaining a well-rounded education that includes a mix of natural sciences, mathematics, social sciences, and the humanities
- Adding a bachelor's degree to your existing technical degree or certification
- Pursuing a flexible degree path that allows for maximum customization, including options for online learning
- Earning a degree provides you with skills and knowledge employers say are essential for success in today's fast-changing economy and global community – skills that are limited in current college graduates

Then the B.G.S. Liberal Arts and Science degree option might be a good fit for you! Please note, however:

- This is not an "easy" or "quick" degree option. The academic standards are the same for all degrees granted by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and students are required to complete at least 120 credit hours, including degree-specific coursework.
- This is not an option for students who also wish to pursue majors or minors within 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 the University Registrar (<https://registrar.ku.edu/creditransfer/>) 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 (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.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|-----------|
| Intro to Liberal Arts & Sciences | | 3 |
| LA&S 105 | Introduction to the Liberal Arts & Sciences (Students interested in the Liberal Arts & Sciences BGS degree are encouraged to take LA&S 105 as early as possible.) | |
| Research Methods | | 3 |
| Satisfied by one of the following: | | |
| SOC 280 | Introduction to Social Research | |
| POLS 206 | Political Science Methods of Inquiry | |
| WGSS 501 | Doing Feminist Research | |
| Career Preparation | | 3 |
| LA&S 372 | Preparing for Programs in the Health Professions | |
| LA&S 475 | Professional Career Management | |
| LA&S 485 | Global Career Management | |
| LA&S 490 | Internship Exploration | |
| Capstone | | 3 |
| LA&S 494 | Senior Seminar in Liberal Arts and Sciences | |
| Social & Behavioral Sciences | | 6 |
| Satisfied by any two courses from the field of Social & Behavioral Sciences | | |
| Humanities | | 6 |
| Satisfied by any two courses from the field of Humanities | | |
| Arts, Languages, & Interdisciplinary Studies | | 6 |
| Satisfied by any two courses from the field of Arts, Languages, & Interdisciplinary Studies | | |
| Natural Sciences & Mathematics | | 6 |
| Satisfied by any two courses from the field of Natural Sciences & Mathematics | | |
| Electives | | 6 |
| Satisfied by any two courses from any of the 4 Fields of Study | | |
| Total Hours | | 42 |

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

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/core34/>).

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 | 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 | 3 | 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.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Integrate knowledge across disciplines by connecting examples, facts, or theories from more than one discipline to a novel object, set of circumstances, or issues.
- Demonstrates ability to pose new questions or generate new ideas on a novel object, set of circumstances, or issues.
- Demonstrate research and information literacy skills using scholarly resources, including the critical use of both print and electronic resource sources.
- Demonstrate an understanding of, and consideration for social, global, and cultural differences.

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)