

Bachelor of General Studies Program Faculty Senate Report April 18th, 2022

The Bachelor of General Studies was approved by the Faculty Senate on February 22, 2021, and then approved by the BOR on September 23, 2021, for a January 2022 start. Students began inquiring about the program as early as October 2021 and the program to date has had over 50 inquiries.

The Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree is a pathway to completion for a variety of students including incoming transfer students, adult learners, and/or veterans who have accumulated credits at other institutions. A personalized pathway, manifest as themes within a BGS, is particularly attractive to adult learners, who are expected to increasingly pursue baccalaureate degrees at a rate of 0.7% per year through 2027 (National Center for Education Statistics).

The BGS also serves students who are stalled in a professional program (i.e., nursing, education, business, engineering, exercise science) and are looking to earn a baccalaureate degree. For various reasons, such students have limited options when they cannot meet the GPA requirements and/or cannot complete certain gateway requirements for professional programs. These students have often accumulated credits within a particular program but either cannot pass a specific required course, or due to time constraints, cannot take a required course. The BGS offers these students a more efficient pathway to success and avoids additional debt.

Students must have accumulated 60 credits or more and have completed the equivalent of one semester, full-time, before they can apply to the BGS program. Students submit their application to the Director of the BGS (Beth Merenstein) and the Director then consults with the Dean or Dean's representative of the chosen theme. Advising takes place through the office of the BGS and with further faculty advisement when necessary.

Curriculum

From the four undergraduate schools, students select one of the following themes: People and Industry (SOB), Professional Studies (SEPS), STEM (SEST), Social and Behavioral Sciences (CLASS) or Arts and Humanities (CLASS). While it is possible to create your own theme for the BGS, only 2 students have done so (one in SEPS and one in SOB).

Students need to complete all the traditional general education requirements, accumulate 120 credits with 30 in-residence and have at least a 2.0 GPA.

In conjunction with the BGS Director, students select 30 credits they want to use for their major with 15 credits at the 300 or 400 level (and 12 of the upper-level courses must be in-residence). A minor is not required.

Evidence of Program Success

Qualitative Examples:

“CCSU has always held a special place in my heart. It’s where I met my wife and gave me the tools to successfully launch my business. Now, that my family is secure, I have the opportunity to serve my community and fulfill a lifelong dream of becoming a police officer, not to mention receiving my degree. Words cannot express the happiness this has brought my family and I. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.” Lou C.

“I can't express my gratitude enough to the BGS department, and how thankful I am to finally be able to graduate and teach my daughter the power of perseverance in adversity. This wouldn't be possible without the BGS discipline at CCSU, and I urge anyone who's story is similar to mine, to apply and finish your degree. The program has been a smooth transition, with helpful advisement and guidance from all of the staff at BGS, and I'm truly thankful to everyone who has helped me finally walk the stage! Thank you so much for everything!” Vanessa L.

“It’s been 40 years and I am finally going to get my degree” Peter R.

“A friend of mine told me about the new BGS program at CCSU. I had 160 credits, so I looked into it. The BGS staff told me my Spanish BA was complete and I only needed two general education requirements. I am finally going to get my BA in Spanish after over 20 years.” Sergio B.

Readmitted Students

Of all the students who have inquired about the BGS Program, 17 of them were stop-out students. Of those 17, 3 students were able to complete their original major and graduate with little or no additional course work. Another 11 students were transfer students. The remaining are current CCSU students who were unable to complete their designated major.

Program Data (Data as of April 7, 2022)

All Inquiries

Total	Credit Range	Credit Average	GPA Range	GPA Average	
54	0-210	104.9	0-3.39	2.26	

Students advised but not pursuing BGS

Total	Credit Range	Credit Average	GPA Range	GPA Average	Outcome
14	27-157	90.9	1.71-3.26	2.27	Majority of students stayed with original major or changed to a major within same school

BGS graduates spring/summer 2022

Total	Credit Range	Credit Average	GPA Range	GPA Average
16	120-210	132.2	2.0-3.39	2.59

Current BGS or pre-BGS students

Total	Credit Range	Credit Average	GPA Range	GPA Average
24	14-124	97.7	0-3.65	2.18

Breakdown by school

	SOB	SEST	SEPS	CLASS
All Inquiries	10	10	6	28
Students Advised but not Pursuing BGS	3	1	2	10
BGS graduates spring/summer 2022	2	4	3	5
Current BGS or pre-BGS students	5	5	1	13