
General Studies

In the General Studies major students plan their own programs around a core of interdisciplinary courses. Graduates will be prepared to enter graduate studies in interdisciplinary majors or in traditional liberal arts disciplines, to enter teaching, business, government, or any field where a strong liberal arts background is desired.

All General Studies students take a core of five courses. "Understanding Human Nature" analyzes what it means to be human from a variety of perspectives. "Critical Methods of Inquiry in the Humanities and Social Sciences" provides an introduction to various modes of analyzing subjects in the humanities and social sciences. "Prominent Themes in Western Civilization since the Renaissance" studies central issues in Western culture using primary readings in a variety of disciplines, and "Contemporary Worldviews" traces such issues through the twentieth century to the present, using sources from history, art, literature, psychology, management, and so on. The last core course is an independent project (with concurrent seminar meetings) in which the student creates her own interdisciplinary study, either a long essay based on issues like those in the core, or an applied project that uses the core courses indirectly.

In addition to the core, the student will choose two other areas of concentration or will design his own program in consultation with an advisor. If the first option is chosen, one of the two areas must fulfill the requirements for a SUNYIT minor in that field or constitute the equivalent of a minor (the student, in consultation with the General Studies advisor, will draw up a selection of courses.) If the second option is chosen, the student may plan a concentration of courses similar to a traditional major or may create a unique amalgam, such as a combination of marketing, internet, psychology, and political science courses to study the human factors in electronic communication.

** The program in General Studies is a Bachelor of Arts Degree. As a result, a student is limited to a maximum of 30 credit hours of coursework in professional areas outside of Arts and Sciences.*

Degree Requirements for General Studies

To earn a degree in General Studies, students must submit a proposed course of study identifying the student's areas of interest and proposed means of completing the degree requirements to the general studies advisor.

Satisfactory completion of 124 semester hours of college-level work distributed as follows:

General Education Requirements:	38-48
Program Requirements	56
General Electives:	28-38

Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 40 semester hours of upper division course work, of which at least 30 semester hours must be taken at SUNYIT.

Achievement of a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in courses taken at SUNYIT.

A grade of C or better in general studies courses and program courses.

General Studies Requirements

I. General Education Requirements

(12 Courses: 38-48 Credits)

Mathematics: MAT 111 or equivalent

Natural Sciences

Lab Science

Natural Science

Social Sciences

American History

Western Civilization

Other World Civilizations

Humanities

The Arts

Foreign Language

English Composition: ENG 101 or equivalent

Upper Division Writing: COM 308 or approved alternative

II. Program Requirements

(14-18 courses; 56 credits)

The student must complete 56 credit hours.

Required General Studies Courses

GEN 204: Understanding Human Nature

GEN 310: Critical Methods of Inquiry in the Humanities and Social Sciences*

GEN 400: Prominent Themes in Western Civilization since the Renaissance

GEN 401: Contemporary Worldviews

GEN 499: General Studies Project

*Option A students who incorporate a concentration in Sociology or Psychology may substitute SOC 332 or PSY 310 for this course; Option B students also may substitute an alternative methods course into their course of study, pending its approval from the General Studies faculty.

Option A: (36 credit hours in two of the following areas to be decided upon with your advisor; one area must satisfy the requirements for a SUNYIT minor or a series of courses equivalent to a minor not offered at SUNY-IT, to be determined in consultation with the General Studies advisor.)

* Sociology (ANT/SOC)

* Humanities (ENG/HUM/ART/MUS/PHI/STS/HIS)

* Communication

* Mathematics

* Natural Sciences

* Psychology

* Social Sciences (ECO/POS/STS/HIS)

* Professional Area (from any program outside of Arts and Sciences that has sufficient courses for creating a cluster).

Option B: The student must complete 36 credit hours by designing his or her own course of study, but the student MUST select courses in consultation with the general studies advisor, and the student MUST then petition the general studies faculty for approval. The student must complete a minimum of 16 credit hours within this option at the upper-division level.

III. General Electives

(28-38 credit hours)

College level courses in any discipline carrying SUNYIT or transferable credit.