

Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree

To earn a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree in the College of General Studies (CGS), you must complete a minimum of 120 credits (approximately 40 courses) taken from the categories that follow. At least 30 credits must be in upper division (1000-level) courses. These 1000-level courses may be from any of the following areas, including those in the major.

Skills: 15 credits minimum

Certain tools of knowledge are required of all students in the baccalaureate degree program—the ability to use the English language orally and in writing, and the ability to understand and use basic mathematical symbols.

Oral Communication.....3 credits..... Communication 0520–Public Speaking.

Writing9 credits minimum English Composition—any Seminar in Composition course and two other courses from English Composition, English Writing, or those designated “W” (writing). **Note:** At least three credits of composition/writing must be from the University of Pittsburgh.

Mathematics3 credits minimum Mathematics 0010–Algebra 1 and 0020–Algebra 2, or 0025–Applied College Algebra, or 0031–Algebra, or equivalent.

Quantitative and Formal Reasoning: 3 credits minimum

In addition to the acquisition of tools of knowledge through the skills requirement, students must also acquire the ability to apply logic and formal reasoning to reading, writing, and thinking. Choose one course from the following list:

- Computer Science any course 3 credits
- Information Science one introductory course: 0010 or 0011 3 credits
- History and Philosophy of Science 0611 Principles of Scientific Reasoning 3 credits
- History and Philosophy of Science 0621 Problem Solving: How Science Works..... 3 credits
- Philosophy 0500 Introduction to Logic 3 credits
- Mathematics 0120 or more advanced..... Business Calculus 4 credits
- Statistics any course 3–4 credits

Understandings: 27 credits

A liberal education provides broad exposure to three major bodies of knowledge—humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Students are exposed to social, scientific, aesthetic, moral, and religious information. The purpose is to furnish insight into how the concerns of people are interrelated, how knowledge accumulates, and how unsolved problems still challenge humanity.

Humanities 9 credits

Three courses distributed over three departments. One must be a 1000-level.

- Africana Studies
- Classics
- Communication
- English
- French
- Film Studies
- German
- History of Art & Architecture
- Italian
- Japanese
- Linguistics
- Music
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies
- Russian
- Slovak
- Spanish
- Studio Arts
- Theatre Arts

Social Sciences..... 9 credits

Three courses distributed over three departments. One must be a 1000-level.

- Africana Studies
- Anthropology
- Economics
- History
- Jewish Studies
- Legal Studies
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Urban Studies
- Women's Studies

Natural Sciences..... 9 credits

Three courses distributed over two or three departments.

- Anthropology
- Astronomy
- Biological Science
- Chemistry
- Geology & Planetary Science
- History & Philosophy of Science
- Neuroscience
- Physics
- Psychology

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Literature: 3 credits

This requirement introduces students to works of literature that have abiding literary value and, in the process, to the techniques of long-term change. This one-course requirement may also be fulfilled from departments other than English.

History: 3 credits

The study of history provides an understanding of contemporary society from the viewpoint of long-term change. This one-course requirement may also be fulfilled from departments other than History.

Note: A course can only be used to fulfill one requirement in the categories of Understandings, Literature, and History.

International Perspective: 9 credits minimum (for students admitted for fall term 2006, 2071)*

The world of today is economically, politically, and culturally interdependent. In the 21st century, knowledge of other countries has become essential. This three-course requirement may be fulfilled by taking internationally focused courses offered by a variety of departments. At least one of the courses must be a non-Western course. The non-Western course may overlap with another requirement. See the course descriptions published online or visit the CGS Web site for a complete listing of courses and the requirements they fill.

Specialized Study (the major): 30–42 credits

The baccalaureate degree, in addition to providing certain skills and broad exposure to the major bodies of knowledge, also allows the opportunity to specialize in a particular field, providing depth of experience essential for vocational competence or future graduate study. An outline of each major may be obtained at the CGS information display on the fourth floor of the Cathedral of Learning or via the Web, www.solutions.pitt.edu.

Choose from 11 CGS majors. The majors that may also be completed entirely on Saturdays are in bold print:

Administration of Justice
Dental Hygiene (for licensed dental hygienists)
Health Services
Humanities

Legal Studies
Liberal Studies
Media and Professional Communications
Natural Sciences

Public Service
Self-Designed
Social Sciences

Electives:

Any credits not used specifically to satisfy the preceding requirements are considered electives. Electives can be taken in a wide variety of subjects to complement, reinforce, or add further breadth to the chosen program of study. Students are limited in the number of professional courses that they may use as electives. Professional electives include administration of justice, business, education, engineering, information science, public service, and social work. See your academic advisor for limitations related to your program.

Preparation for Professional Programs

Prerequisite courses for the following programs may be taken through CGS. Upon successful completion of the courses, students may apply to the school offering the program. See an academic advisor for further information about requirements and acceptance.

- Business**
- Education**
- Engineering**
- Health and Rehabilitation Sciences**
- Information Science**
- Nursing**
- Pharmacy**
- Social Work**

* Students admitted before fall term 2006 (2071) complete 6 credits for the International Perspective requirement. Students admitted for fall term 2006 and thereafter have an additional international course—at least one of the three courses must be a non-Western course.

Requirements subject to change. Check with an academic advisor before registering.

**An internship program is available through the College of General Studies.
Please see your academic advisor for additional information.**