

# **GENERAL ARTS & SCIENCES**

**(GAS – B.A., 124 Credits)**

The General Arts and Sciences major allows students to design a liberal arts program that meets their interests and career goals. Most students who choose the GAS major do so after their first or second year, having decided they would like more freedom to select a variety of courses than is offered in traditional majors. Others are non-traditional students who want to use transfer credits to their best advantage.

GAS majors have four options (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Science/ Mathematics; Liberal Studies), allowing them to select 24 credits from a variety of courses to meet upper division requirements. This individual program must be approved by the faculty adviser to assure that each student's plans reflect serious thought and a coherent set of goals.

Since this major allows students much freedom of choice, they should confer frequently with the adviser about their long-range plans and the prerequisites for upper-level courses. The Career Development Center has been highly supportive in assisting students in this major with their career and graduate school plan.

## **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Students who successfully complete this liberal arts program follow a variety of careers. Some have gone directly into the professional world, for example, working for the federal government, state environmental services, or private business. Recent graduates include a university bookstore manager, an editorial assistant, and a counselor in children's services. A number of students have entered graduate programs, most recently in American Studies, the social sciences, education, and student personnel administration.

## **VALUE OF A LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE**

Increasingly, employers and graduate schools are recognizing that liberal arts graduates have a solid foundation in critical reading, writing skills, and analytical thinking that encourages lifelong learning. The ability to take individual responsibility for one's education and to adapt to constant change will be highly valued in the workplace of the 21st century.

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[behrend.psu.edu/GAS](http://behrend.psu.edu/GAS)

## GENERAL EDUCATION (45 Credits)

### Key to Symbols

- \* Students may complete any 9 credits of GN sciences.
- \*\* Students may complete any 3 credits of GHA as long as the total equals 3 or more credits.
- \*\*\* A student may request an exception in order to establish a focus in one area. For example, a student may opt to take *one* course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, *two* in the Arts, and *three* in the Humanities—referred to as the 3-6-9 sequence.

Writing/Speaking Courses (9 credits)	Your Courses	Credits
ENGL 015 or 030H (GWS)		3
ENGL 202A, B, C or D (GWS)		3
CAS 100A, B, C, or H (GWS)		3
Natural Science Courses (GN)* (9 credits)	Your Courses	Credits
		3
		3
		3
Quantification Courses (GQ) (6 credits)	Your Courses	Credits
		3
		3
Health and Physical Activity (GHA)** (3 credits)	Your Courses	Credits
		1.5
		1.5
Arts Courses (GA)*** (6 credits)	Your Courses	Credits
		3
		3
Humanities Courses (GH)*** (6 credits)	Your Courses	Credits
		3
		3
Social/Behavioral Courses (GS)*** (6 credits)	Your Courses	Credits
		3
		3

## Additional Graduation Requirements

### Key to Symbols

- \*\* Can also be counted toward General Education or major requirements.
- + Effective for students enrolling in or after summer session 2005.

Course Type: Additional Requirements	Your Courses	Credits
First-Year Seminar (Included in electives or general education)		1
Writing Across the Curriculum in the major (W)**		3
International Cultures (IL)**+		3
United States Cultures (US)**+		3

## Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements (12–24 credits)

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE (0–12 credits):** students must attain 12<sup>th</sup> credit level proficiency.

This requirement is governed by a placement policy dictated by the number of levels of foreign language completed prior to admission to college.

Courses: Foreign Language	Credits
	4
	4
	4

## B.A. KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS (9 credits)

Formerly, students were required to complete 3 credits in each of three domains (Arts, Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences). Effective Summer 2005, students are permitted to complete all 9 credits in any one of six domains or a combination thereof, but *courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major*. The six domains are Arts (GA), Humanities (GH), Social & Behavioral Sciences (GS), Natural Sciences (GN), Quantification (GQ), and Foreign Language *if* the coursework is in a second foreign language or beyond the 12<sup>th</sup> credit proficiency of the first foreign language.

See complete list of courses at: <http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergrad/barequirements/>

Courses: Knowledge Domains	Credits
	3
	3
	3

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## OTHER CULTURES (3 cr)†

Key to Symbols

† Cannot be used to satisfy the U.S. & International Cultures requirement.

See: <http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergrad/barequirements/otherCultures>

Course: Other Cultures	Credits
	3

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR (36 credits)

Students must earn a grade of C or better in each 300-level and 400-level course in the major field.

## COMMON REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL OPTIONS (12 credits)

Select 3 credits from each of the areas of Arts, Humanities, Science/Math, and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Common Requirements	Your Courses	Credits
Arts Course		3
Humanities Course		3
Natural Science or Quantification Course		3
Social & Behavioral Course		3

## OPTIONS (24 credits)

Select one of the following: Humanities, Science/Quantification, Social/Behavioral, and Liberal Studies.

## HUMANITIES (24 credits)

Select 3 credits in each of three areas (e.g. English, History, Philosophy, etc.) and select 15 credits at the 400-level (may include 3-6 credits of 494, 495, 496, 497, or 499).

Your Courses: Humanities	Credits	Your Courses (continued)	Credits
	3		3
	3		3
	3		3
	3		3

**SCIENCE/QUANTIFICATION (24 credits)**

Select 3 credits in each of three areas (e.g. Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Math, Logic, Comp. Science, etc.) and select 15 credits at the 400-level (may include 3-6 credits of 494, 495, 496, 497, or 499).

<b>Your Courses: Science/Quant.</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Your Courses (continued)</b>	<b>Credits</b>
	3		3
	3		3
	3		3
	3		3

**SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL (24 credits)**

3 credits in each of the three areas (e.g. Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, Economics, etc.) and select 15 credits at the 400-level.

<b>Your Courses: Social/Behavioral</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Your Courses (continued)</b>	<b>Credits</b>
	3		3
	3		3
	3		3
	3		3

**LIBERAL STUDIES (24 credits)**

In consultation with the GAS program chair, the student may choose from any BA offering to design an appropriately related course sequence, including 15-credits at the 400-level (may include 3-6 credits of 494, 495, 496, 497, or 499).

<b>Your Courses: Liberal Studies</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Your Courses (continued)</b>	<b>Credits</b>
	3		3
	3		3
	3		3
	3		3

**ELECTIVES FOR ALL OPTIONS (18 credits)**

<b>Your Courses: Electives</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Your Courses (continued)</b>	<b>Credits</b>
	3		3
	3		3
	3		3

For a full list of Faculty in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, visit <http://psbehrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/faculty-staff-directory>

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