



Bachelor of General Studies (BGS)

What is a Bachelor of General Studies degree?

The General Studies curriculum provides flexibility to allow the student's program to adapt to particular interests, background, time limitations, and ultimate career goals. It is especially appropriate for a mature person who has, as result of various educational and work experiences, a clear focus and strong commitment to a particular course of study. You can choose a degree concentration that integrates coursework with your interests such as: Arts and Communication, Computer & Natural Science, Social Science and Professional Studies.

Why a BGS degree?

- You have completed classes for a certain major, but are no longer pursuing that degree plan.
- You have completed a wide variety of courses perhaps at a variety of institutions and want to your courses to count towards a degree plan.
- You want to achieve your career goals faster (for example working towards teaching alternate certification).
- You prefer an interdisciplinary course of study rather than something more specific.
- Your current employer requires a college degree for upward mobility.
- You want a flexible degree program that lets you choose a variation of classes that are interesting and meaningful to you.
- The career fields that are of interest to you may not require a certain major or degree.



What can I do with a BGS?

Business & Industry-planning, organizing, directing and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive business operations.

- Administrative Assistant
- Human Resources
- Oilfield: <http://www.rigzone.com/jobs/Oilfield-Services-JC8>
- Real estate: <https://www.lrec.state.la.us/home/>
- Retail store management
- Sales
- Small Business Owner: <https://www.louisianasbdc.org/>

Education- planning, managing and providing education and training services, and related learning support services.

- Teacher (alternate certification): <https://tlc.nsula.edu/>
- Graduate school (earn a Master's degree): <https://graduateschool.nsula.edu/>
- Higher Education: <https://www.higheredjobs.com/>

Government-executing governmental functions to include Governance; National Security; Foreign Service; Planning; Revenue and Taxation; Regulation; and Management and Administration at the local, state, and federal levels.

- City of Natchitoches: <http://www.natchitochesla.gov/job-openings>
- Internal Revenue Service: <https://jobs.irs.gov/home.html>
- Military: <http://todaysmilitary.com/working>
- State of Louisiana: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/louisiana/default.cfm>
- United States Federal Government: <https://www.usajobs.gov/>
- United States Postal Service: <https://about.usps.com/careers/welcome.htm>
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: <http://www.vacareers.va.gov/>

Healthcare-planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostic services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development.

- Healthcare Administration: <http://www.natchitocheshospital.org/careers.php>

Human Services- preparing individuals for employment in career pathways that relate to families and human needs.

- Department of Children & Family Services: <http://dss.louisiana.gov/>



Law Enforcement-planning, managing, and providing legal, public safety, protective services and homeland security, including professional and technical support services.

- Louisiana Department of Safety & Corrections: <http://www.doc.la.gov/pages/employment/job-listings/>
- Louisiana State Police: <http://www.lsp.org/recruit.html>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation: <https://www.fbijobs.gov/>

Non-Profit- These organizations have been given a tax exempt status by the government. They usually have a public service mission, but the causes and populations they deal with can vary. Non-profits are funded through government grants, public donations, fundraising activities, and corporate gifts.

- A directory of Corporate, Private, and Community Foundations, aiding nonprofit charities in their search for funds: <http://www.foundations.org/grantmakers.html>
- A database of information on more than 650,000 nonprofit organizations: <https://www.guidestar.org/>



Job-seeker Information:

Find what you want to do:

1. Consider your interests (ex. courses you like)
2. Figure out what you like to do (ex. academic and extracurricular activities)
3. Take an interest and skills assessment: <http://www.typefocus.com>
4. Research the job market (see Additional Resources below)
5. Get help: Counseling and Career Services, Sylvan Friedman Student Union, Rm. 305, 318-357-5621



Consider Internships: obtain relevant work experience and possibly get paid (www.internships.com).

How to Find a Job:

1. Networking enable one to make connections with people you already know or are just meeting to assist with job search efforts. One should consult friends, family, co-workers, and even professors for help. There may be job opportunities found by speaking with alumni, those in professional associations, and conference attendees. Once your network is expanded so are your career opportunities.
2. Career fairs enable job seekers to get information about several companies at once. You may be able to submit a resume and even interview on the spot. It is very important to come prepared with several copies of your resume, unofficial transcript(s), and business apparel. Many employers contact the university directly to recruit students for their company. Not only do universities hold career fairs, but local entities may offer these. It is best to find out which employers will be there so that you can research the companies, their history and culture, open positions, and requirements. These events can even help you narrow down your proposed job field or improve your interviewing skills.
3. Job Postings are usually on the internet with popular websites such as: www.careerbuilder.com, www.monster.com, www.indeed.com, etc. They can even be found in more traditional formats such as the newspaper or professional publications.

Additional resources for BGS Students:

- O*NET OnLine has detailed descriptions of the world of work for use by job seekers, workforce development and HR professionals, students, researchers, and more! A tool for career exploration and job analysis: <http://www.onetonline.org/>
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor is the principal Federal agency responsible for measuring labor market activity, working conditions, and price changes in the economy. Economic information: <http://www.bls.gov/home.htm>

Associate of General Studies -- What can I do with this degree?

Students who earn a degree in general studies have numerous career options. With a diverse academic background, many students pursue careers in the business or service industries where they can make best use of their broad learning experience.

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| • Administrative Assistant | • Human Resources Associate | • Operations / Project Manager |
| • Advertising Sales Agent | • Law Enforcement Officer | • And more |
| • Customer Service Representative | | |

Northwestern State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, specialists, and doctorate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Northwestern State University.

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