Associate of Arts

Mission
The goals of the Associate of Arts program are to offer students a coherent foundation in general education and initial exploration of an interest area or discipline. The program intends to meet needs of students for whom associate-degree completion provides a work-place credential and students who seek a credible benchmark of an interim accomplishment while they work toward a baccalaureate or other degree.

Program Description
The Associate of Arts degree is an associate-level degree program (65 credit-hour minimum). It was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents in 1997. The curriculum requires completion of general education requirements and additional study concentrated in one of WSU’s six degree-granting colleges: business, education, engineering, fine arts, health professions, or liberal arts and sciences. Working with a university advisor, students develop individual strategies to complete the requirements of the program.

Degree Offered
Associate of Arts
Bachelor of General Studies

Mission
The mission of the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree is to serve the needs of undergraduate students who have specific learning and employment outcomes. The BGS mission enables students to combine disciplines in such a way that the degree content might enhance their future lives. Within this mission, we find students who are moving toward professional education in medicine and law as well as students who plan to create a major that addresses a personal and/or employment interest. Hence, the mission of the BGS degree is to meet the needs of a diverse set of students who enroll at an urban institution that has a desire to serve the best pedagogical interests of traditional and non-traditional student populations. The popularity of the BGS degree, as an option for WSU students, attests to its value and success.

Program Description
The BGS degree allows students to design their own programs of study crossing departmental or college lines. With the assistance of the BGS advisor in the department of primary interest, each student pursuing this degree will develop a plan of study which outlines an area of concentration incorporating a minimum of 33 hours. No fewer than 15 and no more than 21 of these will be taken in a primary department. The remaining 12 to 18 hours must be divided between at least two other departments. The first two departments of concentration must be in LAS. A minimum of 12 LAS upper-division hours must be included.

Program Governance
Faculty committee. The BGS faculty governance and assessment committee is chaired by Dr. Ron Matson, chair of the sociology department. Members are Dr. Wan Yang, geology; Dr. Ariel Loftus, history; Dr. Louis Medvene, psychology, and the Associate Dean for Curriculum Development, Dr. Sharon Iorio.

Undergraduate Degree Offered
Bachelor of General Studies.

Program Data

BGS degree titles (codes) that accompany degrees in other Colleges:
Art History
Communication Disorders
Economics
Music
Theater

Field Major degrees for LAS disciplines with no separate department program:
International Area Studies Geography
International Studies and Administration Gerontology
Ethnic Studies Religion
Earth, Environmental, and Physical Sciences Master’s Program

Mission
The master’s program in Earth, Environmental, and Physical Sciences (EEPS) offers an opportunity for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary graduate education and research to investigate the consequences of human actions on the environment and to seek wise development and utilization of the resources of our planet. It is designed to train a new generation of scientists, professionals, and educators who will be well equipped with general knowledge and skills in methodology, critical and creative thinking in scientific research, and advanced knowledge and skills in geology, environmental science, or physics. This program is designed to attract students interested in earth, environmental, or physical sciences as well as the interdisciplinary training in the three fields of emphasis. The program targets students with a bachelor’s degree in any field of natural sciences, and also encourages enrollment of motivated students with a bachelor’s degree outside the field of natural sciences.

Program Governance
Faculty committee. Current graduate coordinator is in Department of Geology.

Graduate Degree Offered
MS in Earth, Environmental, and Physical Sciences.
Field Major

Program Description
Students may select a major that correlates three or more fields of study to receive a broad appreciation of the cultural and dynamic factors of human conduct. The selection of courses must be made with an adviser from the primary department or discipline of interest. There are also several pre-designed field majors that students may follow. Although the field major cuts across departmental lines and is determined by the field of specific interest, the combination of courses must be acceptable to the college: 36 hours of coursework are required with 18 hours in the major department and at least 9 in each of the two allied departments; 12 of the 36 hours must be upper division. Students who complete the program must meet BA requirements except for biochemistry and chemistry/business field majors which lead to the BS degree.

Combined Degree
A BA degree with a combined major consisting of 24 hours from one field of study and 12 from an allied field of study may be designed with the assistance of the primary department; 12 upper division hours must be included in the combined majors.

Pre-designed Field Majors
Biochemistry (administered through biology and chemistry departments)
Chemistry/Business (administered through chemistry department)
Classical Studies (administered through modern and classical languages and literatures department)
International Studies
  Option A—area studies (administered through history department)
  Option B—combination of area studies and international business (administered through history department)

Field Major degree titles that accompany degrees in other colleges:
Art History
Communication Disorders
Economics
Music
Theater

Field Major degrees for LAS disciplines with no separate department program:
Ethnic Studies
Geography
Gerontology
Religion

Undergraduate Degrees Offered
BA in Field Major-(program/discipline of concentration); BS in Field Major-biochemistry or Chemistry/Business; BA in Combined Major - (two departments).
Forensic Sciences

Mission
The mission of the forensic sciences program is to comprehensively prepare students for productive career oriented work as forensic scientists in laboratories that support criminal investigation and related processes. This degree program is designed to prepare students for entry level work in a forensic sciences laboratory that operates within the context of the criminal investigation and crime detection processes. The forensic sciences program consists of at least 88 hours involving courses from the chemistry, biological sciences, anthropology, psychology, criminal justice and forensic sciences departments. Some of these required courses may also satisfy the university’s General Education requirements. Students must also satisfy the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the university requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree.

Program Governance
Faculty Committee, current chair is in School of Community Affairs (Criminal Justice).

Undergraduate Degree Offered
The Forensic Sciences Program offers the Bachelor of Science in Forensic Sciences degree.
Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Program Mission
With the increasing complexity of contemporary society, it is becoming ever more obvious that
the issues confronting us today seldom can be addressed from any single disciplinary
perspective. Any viable proposal for health care reform, for instance, must draw on insights from
medicine, economics, political science, and sociology; one cannot address ecological issues
without drawing on the resources of biology, chemistry, philosophy, economics and public
policy; a serious assessment of the scientific revolution’s influence on the development of 17th
and 18th century philosophy requires the expertise of philosophy, history and science – especially
physics. The mission of the MALS Program is to provide students the opportunity to pursue
interdisciplinary graduate study that integrates work in three distinct disciplines. Working closely
with the Director of MALS and faculty from three disciplines, students have the opportunity to
design programs of study which incorporate the theories, approaches, issues and methods of
diverse disciplines into a coherent, focused, rigorous graduate interdisciplinary program that is
not contained within any existing discipline.

Program Governance
Faculty committee. Current chair is also chair of the Department of Philosophy.

Graduate Degree Offered
Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Program Data for Fall, 2005
Graduate majors: 24.