Bachelor of University Studies

Questions and Answers

What is the difference between a Bachelor of University Studies (BUS) and a BUS with an option in Multidisciplinary Studies?

In the Multidisciplinary Studies option, the “major” is composed of two or three areas of concentration (usually minors) and students are required to complete 40 upper division hours. If two areas of concentration are selected, each will include at least 27 hours of coursework. For three areas of concentration, at least 18 hours of coursework are required for each. The Bachelor of University Studies major requires completion of no fewer than 40 upper division hours selected from two or more disciplines in which their aggregate comprise a rational combination of concepts and skills. Talk to your adviser, the Student Academic Services Office for your college, University College Advising (UCA) in 214 Student Union, or the Advising Center at OSU-Tulsa if you are not sure which option is best for you.

How do I choose an adviser?

Identify your areas of concentration. Then, go to the Student Academic Services Office for one of the chosen areas of concentration or UCA in 214 Student Union. They will help you identify an appropriate adviser.

Do I have to keep the first adviser I choose or may I change at some later date?

You may change advisers at any time, however your adviser must advise students in one of the areas of concentration.

At what time may I declare this major?

You may declare the Bachelor of University Studies degree at any time.

Will I have a faculty representative in each area of concentration who will approve courses? Example: Concentration #1, Marketing; Concentration #2, Management; Concentration #3, Physical Education. Two colleges, three different departments. Who decides the coursework to be taken?

If the area of concentration has an approved minor/certificate, you will select courses from the minor/certificate with help from your adviser or the adviser for the minor/certificate (minor advisers are listed on the summary of minors). If you select an area of concentration that does not have an approved minor/certificate, a faculty member or adviser in the area must approve your courses.

May I select areas of concentration without fulfilling a minor or certificate in any one of them?

Yes. Many minors/certificates require more than 18 hours (a few require more than 27 hours), so you will work with your adviser or the adviser for the minor/certificate to select appropriate courses from the minor/certificate. Substitutions to required courses in the minor/certificate must be approved by the adviser for the minor. If the area of concentration does not have an identified minor or certificate, you may work with a faculty member or adviser in the area to determine appropriate courses.

Who approves the completed Bachelor of University Studies Declaration of Major form?

When you declare the degree, you and your adviser will submit a Declaration of Major form to the dean of the college or representative approved by the college for approval. The plan will then be sent to the Office of the Registrar to verify compliance with BUS degree requirements. After review, the final copy will be sent to the Vice Provost for final approval.

If I select a plan that lists courses I plan to take, may I change the plan with adviser approval?

Yes. Work with your adviser to complete the BUS Substitution form before the semester you plan to graduate. Your adviser will assist with obtaining all signatures and submitting to the Vice Provost and the
Office of the Registrar. **Note - this is not applicable to the drop/withdrawal process in Spears School of Business.**

**What should I do if I decide to change areas of concentration?**

Work with your adviser to submit a revised Bachelor of University Studies Plan of Study form.

**Is there a GPA requirement in the areas of concentration?**

You must maintain a 2.0 GPA to graduate from Oklahoma State University. However, if your Plan of Study includes minors and or certificates, some minors or certificates require a higher GPA.

**May I earn a grade of D in the courses included in the areas of concentration?**

Yes, however, if you complete a minor, some minors/certificates accept no grade lower than a C.

**May I use a course to fulfill requirements in more than one area of concentration?**

No. For example, if Sociology 1113 is required in two areas of concentration, you may use the class to fulfill the requirements of only one of the areas of concentration. Select another course to complete the required number of hours in the other area of concentration.

**May an adviser refuse to allow me to include a course in the area of concentration (even if the course is listed among minor requirements)?**

Yes, if the adviser does not feel the course is fulfilling the intent of the plan of study developed by the student.

**Do I have to meet College/Departmental requirements?**

You are only required to complete general education courses required by your college of enrollment, which includes 40 hours of general education (GENED) required by Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE). Please note that required general education courses (courses with A, S, N, L, H, or I designations) may be listed on degree sheets under general education and college/department requirements.

**May I use courses from an associate degree to fulfill requirements for a Bachelor of University Studies degree?**

Yes. You may use “major” courses from an Associate of Science or Associate of Arts degree to fulfill one of three areas of concentration.

**Will I qualify for alternative certification to become a teacher if I complete this degree?**

According to the Oklahoma State Department of Education (www.sde.state.ok.us), a degree in general studies does not qualify you for certification unless you complete coursework that is equivalent to a major in a certification area (for example, if you wish to pursue alternative certification in History you must complete all of the courses listed as major requirements for a Bachelor of Arts in History).

**NOTE:** Anyone who has been denied admittance to an approved teacher education program or enrolled in and subsequently failed required teacher education courses necessary to meet the minimum requirements of a teacher education program is not eligible for the Oklahoma Alternative Placement Program.

**Can I earn a Bachelor of University Studies degree and another OSU bachelors degree?**

The Bachelor of University Studies (BUS) degree cannot be earned as a second or concurrent OSU baccalaureate degree. Students may earn a BUS degree first, followed by a non-BUS degree in a subsequent term. Students are prevented from earning a BUS degree and other bachelor’s degree
concurrently in the same semester, or earning a non-BUS bachelor’s degree first, followed by a BUS
degree in a subsequent term.

Are there any other requirements for graduation with the Bachelor of University Studies degree?

You must complete at least 120 semester hours with at least 2.00 GPA. At least 40 hours must be upper
division. You must also complete at least 60 hours at a four-year institution and 30 hours at OSU. In
addition, 15 of the final 30 or 50% of the upper-division hours in the areas of concentration must be
completed at OSU. No more than one-half of the hours used for the areas of concentration may be fulfilled
by transfer work, and no more than 25% of the hours may be earned by correspondence (with a maximum
of 8 transfer correspondence hours).