

GENERAL STUDIES, LIBERAL ARTS (BS)

Overview

Degree: Bachelor of Science
Major: Liberal Arts - General Studies
Program Code: 3052

While Colorado Mesa University provides a wide range of programs, the university may not offer a standard bachelor's degree program that serves a student's particular need. A liberal arts degree, however, is designed to offer a student the opportunity to craft a plan of study to suit his/her individual career and academic aspirations. Under the direction of an advisor, a liberal arts major will design a coherent program by choosing appropriate courses that focus on a very specific field of study.

For more information on what you can do with this major, visit Career Services' [What to Do with a Major?](#) resource.

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in specialized knowledge/applied learning, quantitative fluency, communication fluency, critical thinking, personal and social responsibility, and information literacy. In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, graduates of this major will be able to:

1. Synthesize research and methodologies from at least two disciplines to address complex interdisciplinary questions or problems. (Information Literacy)
2. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using appropriate mathematical and analytical methods to develop well-supported conclusions. (Quantitative Fluency)
3. Communicate interdisciplinary ideas effectively through written and oral presentations, including quantitative findings, tailored to diverse audiences and cultural contexts. (Communication Fluency)
4. Evaluate the implications and consequences of decisions by integrating information, methodologies, and empirical evidence from at least two disciplines. (Critical Thinking)
5. Assess ethical, social, civic, and/or environmental challenges through data-driven interdisciplinary analysis and evidence-based reasoning. (Personal and Social Responsibility)
6. Integrate relevant information from at least two disciplines using appropriate quantitative frameworks into interdisciplinary projects and presentations. (Specialized Knowledge/Applied Learning)

Requirements

Each section below contains details about the requirements for this program. Select a header to expand the information/requirements for that particular section of the program's requirements.

To print or save an overview of this program's information, including the program description, learning outcomes, requirements, suggested course sequencing (if applicable), and advising and graduation information, scroll to the bottom of the left-hand navigation menu and select "Print Options." This will give you the options to either "Send Page to Printer" or "Download PDF of This Page." The "Download PDF of This Page" option prepares a much more concise presentation of all program information. The PDF is also printable and may be preferable due to its brevity.

Institutional Certificate Requirements

The following institutional degree requirements apply to all CMU baccalaureate degrees. Specific programs may have different requirements that must be met in addition to institutional requirements.

- 120 semester hours minimum.
- Students must complete a minimum of 30 of the last 60 hours of credit at CMU, with at least 15 semester hours in major discipline courses numbered 300 or higher.
- 40 upper-division credits (an alternative credit limit applies to the Bachelor of Applied Science degree).
- 2.00 cumulative GPA or higher in all CMU coursework.
- A course may only be used to fulfill one requirement for each degree/certificate.
- No more than six semester hours of independent study courses can be used toward the degree.
- Non-traditional credit, such as advanced placement, credit by examination, and credit for prior learning, is limited by the institutional residency requirements for the baccalaureate degree. Cooperative education and internship courses may be taken multiple times, up to a maximum of 15 credit hours.
- Pre-collegiate courses (usually numbered below 100) cannot be used for graduation.
- Capstone exit assessment/projects (e.g., Major Field Achievement Test) requirements are identified under Program-Specific Degree Requirements.
- The Catalog Year determines which program sheet and degree requirements a student must fulfill in order to graduate. Visit with your advisor or academic department to determine which catalog year and program requirements you should follow.
- See "Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees and Certificates" in the catalog for a complete list of graduation requirements.

Essential Learning Requirements

(31 semester hours)

See the current catalog for a list of courses that fulfill the requirements below. If a course is an Essential Learning option and a requirement for your major, you must use it to fulfill the major requirement and make a different selection for the Essential Learning requirement.

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
English ¹		
ENGL 111	English Composition I-GTCO1	3
ENGL 112	English Composition II-GTCO2	3
Mathematics ¹		
MATH 113	College Algebra-GTMA1	3
History		
Select one History course		3
Humanities		
Select one Humanities course		3
Social and Behavioral Sciences		
Select one Social and Behavioral Sciences course		3
Select one Social and Behavioral Sciences course		3
Fine Arts		

Select one Fine Arts course	3
Natural Sciences ²	
Select one Natural Sciences course	3
Select one Natural Sciences course with a lab	4
Total Semester Credit Hours	31

¹ Must receive a grade of "C" or better and must be completed by the time the student has 60 semester hours. 1 credit of this will count towards elective credits.

² One course must include a lab.

Other Lower Division Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Wellness Requirement		
KINE 100	Health and Wellness	1
Select one Activity course		1
Essential Learning Capstone ¹		
ESSL 290	Maverick Milestone	3
ESSL 200	Essential Speech	1
Total Semester Credit Hours		6

¹ Essential Learning Capstone must be taken after completion of the Essential Learning English and Mathematics requirements, and when a student has earned between 45 and 75 hours.

Foundation Courses

(3 semester hours, must earn a "C" or better in each course)

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Complete the following:		
STAT 200	Probability and Statistics-GTMA1	3
Total Semester Credit Hours		3

Program Specific Degree Requirements

(40 semester hours, must maintain a 2.00 cumulative GPA or higher in coursework in this area.)

- Before declaring a Liberal Arts–General Studies major, the student must have the permission of an academic advisor, who will also work with the student in constructing an appropriate course of study and Capstone Experience.

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Capstone Experience		
3 semester hours of upper-division independent study, internship, or other coursework as recommended by an academic advisor		3
Other Upper Division Courses		
37 credits of upper division coursework in any discipline		37
Total Semester Credit Hours		40

General Electives

(37 semester hours) All college-level courses appearing on your final transcript, not listed above that will bring your total semester hours to 120 hours.

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Select electives		37
Total Semester Credit Hours		37

Advising and Graduation Advising Process and DegreeWorks

Documentation on the pages related to this program is intended for informational purposes to help determine what courses and associated requirements are needed to earn a degree. The suggested course sequencing outlines how students could finish degree requirements. Some courses are critical to complete in specific semesters, while others may be moved around. Meeting with an academic advisor is essential in planning courses and altering the suggested course sequencing. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and fulfill the requirements for their intended degree(s).

DegreeWorks is an online degree audit tool available in MAVzone. It is the official record used by the Registrar's Office to evaluate progress towards a degree and determine eligibility for graduation. Students are responsible for reviewing their DegreeWorks audit on a regular basis and should discuss questions or concerns with their advisor or academic department head. Discrepancies in requirements should be reported to the Registrar's Office.

Graduation Process

Students must complete the following in the first two months of the semester prior to completing their degree requirements:

- Review their DegreeWorks audit and create a plan that outlines how unmet requirements will be met in the final semester.
- Meet with their advisor and modify their plan as needed. The advisor must approve the final plan.
- Submit the "Intent to Graduate" form to the Registrar's Office to officially declare the intended graduation date and commencement ceremony plans.
- Register for all needed courses and complete all requirements for each degree sought.

Submission deadlines and commencement details can be found on the [Graduation](#) web page.

If a student's petition for graduation is denied, it will be their responsibility to consult the Registrar's Office regarding next steps.