The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree

I. Degree Description

The UW Colleges B.A.A.S. degree-completion program expands baccalaureate opportunities for place-bound adults. It addresses the UW Colleges’ revised mission of “providing a single baccalaureate degree that meets local and individual needs.” To fulfill the UW Colleges mission of access to high quality academic programs and success at the baccalaureate level, and to strengthen and enhance the institution’s commitment to the Wisconsin Idea, the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree includes four sequenced curricular components that prepare students to apply theoretical knowledge, higher order intellectual skills, and practical experience to achieve solutions to complex problems encountered in contemporary workplace and community settings.

A. Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree Curricular Components

The four sequenced curricular components that make up the 60-credit degree-completion program are defined as follows:

1. Professional Experience
   
   Internship (IN)
   
   The internship combines classroom-based education with workplace-based experiential learning related to the degree-seeking student’s career-related skill and professional development.
   
   Service-Learning (SL)
   
   The course-integrated project conducted as a volunteer in a local organization provides an opportunity to analyze and solve work- or community-related problems. The central feature of the service-learning component is service to others combined with reflection upon its role in community and individual life.
   
   Credit for Prior Experiential Learning
   
   A degree-seeking student may present an experiential learning portfolio addressing university-level knowledge of a subject acquired outside of a traditional classroom to a UW Colleges department for evaluation for experiential learning credit.

2. Global Studies (GS)
A curricular component that will enable students to develop knowledge of global cultures, the world economy, and the natural world needed to engage contemporary and enduring problems from a global perspective.

3. Cognitive Skills (CS)
A curricular component that requires students to acquire higher order intellectual skills in a variety of disciplines and contexts.

4. Capstone Senior Seminar (CSS)
A full academic year of individualized instruction in the student’s area of interest working closely with an instructor on the student’s professional development. The completion of the seminar should result in a tangible project/study/report that will help the student into the next career stage.

II. Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree Proficiencies

To fulfill its mission, the UW Colleges expects all students who graduate with a UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree to achieve and demonstrate the following skill-based competencies:

A. Integrative Learning
Students must be able to:
- Integrate past work/life experience with the college experience,
- Identify, analyze, and develop strategies to meet local community and business needs,
- Understand the role of service in the development of healthy communities,
- Adapt to a continuously changing work world, and
- Demonstrate persistent learning through the capacity to apply research skills, critical analysis, group discussion techniques, and disciplined writing in community and work settings.

B. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Natural World
Students must be able to:
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of global issues, processes, trends, and systems,
- Communicate effectively across contemporary cultural boundaries, and
- Work effectively in a variety of cross-cultural environments.

C. Practical and Cognitive Skills
Students must be able to:
- Demonstrate analysis, synthesis, evaluation, decision-making, and critical and creative thinking skills,
- Identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments as they occur in one’s own and others’ work,
- Write coherent, organized, well-developed, and substantive texts that follow the conventions of standard written English, and
- Apply effective leadership, teamwork, relationship management, and conflict resolution skills in the workplace.

III. Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree Requirements
Revised by the Senate (SSC) 2013-10-25
A. Liberal Arts Breadth Requirements
   Students entering the liberal arts pathway to the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree-completion program will have completed a UW Colleges Associate of Arts and Science degree or equivalent liberal arts associate degree. Students entering the applied pathway of the BAAS degree completion program will have completed an applied associate’s degree.

B. Level of degree work
   A minimum of 40 credits of junior/senior-level work is required for the UW Colleges B.A.A.S. degree.

C. Residency
   A total of 30 credits of the 60 credits of the UW Colleges liberal arts pathway to the B.A.A.S. degree must be earned at the UW Colleges, including 15 Professional Experience credits, a Global Studies core course, a Cognitive Skills core course, a 6-credit Capstone Senior Seminar, and three credits of Global Studies, Cognitive Skills, or Electives.

   A total of 60 credits of the UW Colleges applied pathway to the BAAS degree must be earned at the UW Colleges, fulfilling the core and breadth requirements of the UW Colleges Associate of Arts and Science degree, and including a Global Studies core course, a Cognitive Skills core course, credits in Global Studies, Cognitive Skills, and Professional Experience, and a Senior Capstone Seminar.

D. Collaboration
   A total of 30 credits of the 60 credits of the UW Colleges liberal arts pathway to the B.A.A.S. degree must be earned in UW partner approved Global Studies, Cognitive Skills and/or Elective courses.

   No UW partner collaborative credits are required in the UW Colleges applied pathway to the BAAS degree.

E. GPA minimum
   A minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) in all courses for the UW Colleges B.A.A.S. degree, including all transfer credits necessary to complete the 60-credit degree requirement.

IV. Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Liberal Arts Pathway Curricular Requirements

A. Professional Experience Requirements
   In these components of the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree, students must complete 15 credit hours of experiential learning integrated with academic
instruction, designated as Internship (IN) and Service-Learning (SL), and/or, based on departmental assessment of a prior experiential learning portfolio, be awarded up to six credits for university-level knowledge of a subject acquired outside of a traditional classroom equivalent to approved UW Colleges B.A.A.S. degree course(s). The ratio of Professional Experience components will vary by student; it will depend on the nature of the student’s program and the number of experiential learning credits awarded. Students in an internship will be jointly supervised by an instructor and a designated workplace mentor. Service-learning activities will be course-integrated. The Professional Experience component of the degree will be offered by the UW Colleges.

B. Global Studies Requirements
In this component of the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree, students must complete 15 credit hours of courses designated as Global Studies (GS). All students must complete a required UW Colleges three-credit GS core course. Junior-level standing is required for enrolling in this course. Nine to twelve Global Studies credits will be approved Global Studies courses offered by the UW-partner.

C. Cognitive Skills Requirements
In this component of the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree, students must complete 15 credit hours of courses designated as Cognitive Skills (CS). All students must complete a required UW Colleges three-credit CS core course. Junior-level standing is required for enrolling in this course. Nine to twelve Cognitive Skills credits will be approved Cognitive Skills courses offered by the UW-partner.

D. Capstone Senior Seminar Requirements
In this component of the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree, students must complete a full academic year of individualized instruction working alone or in teams with a UW Colleges instructor on a project with regional impact and global perspective and that uses higher order intellectual skills. Senior-level standing is required for enrolling in this course.

E. Electives
The UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree includes nine credits of approved UW partner and/or UW Colleges Electives apportioned so that the total degree credits are a minimum of 30 credits at the UW Colleges and 30 credits at the UW partner.

V. Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Applied Pathway Curricular Requirements
Added by the Senate (SAPC) 2014-01-22

A. Professional Experience Requirements
In these components of the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree, students must complete 6-15 credit hours of experiential learning integrated with academic instruction, designated as Internship (IN) and Service-Learning (SL), and/or, based on faculty assessment of a prior experiential learning portfolio, be awarded up to six credits for university-level knowledge of a subject acquired outside of a traditional classroom equivalent to approved UW Colleges B.A.A.S. degree course(s). The ratio of Professional Experience components will vary by student; it will depend on the nature of
the student’s program and the number of experiential learning credits awarded. Students in an internship will be jointly supervised by a faculty member and a designated workplace mentor. Service-learning activities will be course-integrated. The Professional Experience component of the degree will be offered by the UW Colleges.

B. Global Studies Requirements
In this component of the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree, students must complete 9-15 credit hours of courses designated as Global Studies (GS). All students must complete a required UW Colleges three-credit core course, The World in the 21st Century. Junior-level standing is required for enrolling in this course.

C. Cognitive Skills Requirements
In this component of the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree, students must complete 9-15 credit hours of courses designated as Cognitive Skills (CS). All students must complete a required UW Colleges three-credit course, Creative Problem Solving. Junior-level standing is required for enrolling in this course.

D. Capstone Senior Seminar Requirements
In this component of the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree, students must complete a full academic year of individualized instruction working alone or in teams with a UW Colleges faculty member on a project with regional impact and global perspective and that uses higher order intellectual skills. Senior-level standing is required for enrolling in this course.

E. Electives
The applied pathway of the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree completion program includes approved Elective credits.

VI. Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Course Degree Designations

A. UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Applied Studies
Applied Studies courses for the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences will have the following degree designations: Internship (IN), Service-Learning (SL), Global Studies (GS), Cognitive Skills (CS), Capstone Senior Seminar (CSS), and Elective (E).

VII. UW Colleges Departments and Disciplines

The following is a list of UW Colleges academic departments and programs, and the disciplines or programs included within each of these academic departments:

- Anthropology and Sociology
- Art
- Biological Sciences
Biology

Business and Economics
  Business, Economics

Chemistry
  Chemistry

Communication and Theatre Arts
  Communication, Theatre

Computer Science, Engineering, Physics and Astronomy

English
  English, Learning Resources (LEA) (non-degree credit classes)

Geography and Geology
  Geography, Geology, Meteorology

Health, Exercise Science, and Athletics
  Exercise Science, Health, Physical Education

History
  History

Mathematics
  Mathematics

Music
  Music, Music Applied

Philosophy
  Philosophy, Religious Studies

Political Science
  American Indian Studies, Political Science

Psychology
  Education, Psychology

World Languages
  French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Italian

Other Programs and Courses
  Interdisciplinary Studies (INT)
  Lecture Forum (LEC)
  Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies (GSW)