

University Studies

Bachelor of University Studies Degree

Contact

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Major Requirements

- 1 credit Introduction to the Bachelor of University Studies
- 3 credits Special Topics in University Studies
- 3 credits Senior Capstone
- 30 credits Courses at the 300 level or higher

120 minimum total credit hours required for graduation

Comments from Students

“The Bachelor of University Studies program has given me the flexibility to juxtapose the responsibilities of a growing family with those of the business and academic worlds. It has also helped me to progress in my field and allowed me to concentrate on my courses in career-oriented areas.”

“The Bachelor of University Studies program allowed me to build on my pre-existing courses and grow personally. The degree has also enabled me to explore other educational opportunities and set future educational goals.”

“The most important aspect of the Bachelor of University Studies degree program is that there is no pressure as to how long it takes you to earn your degree. I have accumulated 63 credit hours toward my degree and it was done by taking one course per semester.”

Division of Lifelong Learning

Program Description

University Studies offers the highly motivated, part-time student an opportunity to coordinate the offerings of the Continuing Education Division and Summer Session into an individually planned degree program. This program is designed specifically and solely for part-time students. The Bachelor of University Studies (B.U.S.) Degree Program is available for individuals who: 1) did not continue directly to higher education after high school and find that family, job and other responsibilities do not allow a full-time program of study; 2) have discontinued college or university programs and now wish to re-enter a degree program; or 3) have attained associate degrees and wish to pursue a broader-based baccalaureate program.

The Bachelor of University Studies degree differs in two major respects from traditional B.A. and B.S. degrees. First, it is offered only through the Continuing Education Division and only on a part-time basis. Second, each student, in consultation with a B.U.S. adviser, will design a program leading to specific educational goals, but not necessarily within any one department, division, school or college. This degree is designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the individual, part-time student.

The B.U.S. is an appropriate alternative for those who do not desire to commit to a single academic area in order to declare a major. With carefully designed study plans, a student may use the B.U.S. to pursue a number of academic interests in relative depth and to gain some exposure to other areas. Due to the flexibility of the program, the B.U.S. can provide the diversity many students will need to succeed in a variety of unanticipated career opportunities and unpredictable life situations.

Admission Requirements

The applicant must be a high school graduate or the equivalent (e.g., GED). Prior to formal admission, the applicant must have completed at least 18 credit hours either at the University of Maine or through acceptable transfer credits from accredited, post-secondary institutions. These courses must represent several academic areas, be approved by a B.U.S. adviser and show a minimum grade point average of “C” (2.0). Applicants are expected to participate in an interview with a B.U.S. adviser to discuss their goals and objectives, and to plan their programs of study. High school transcripts and previous college transcripts, if any, should be made available at this interview. Following the interview, and once the 18 credit hour requirement has been met, students will complete a UMaine undergraduate admission application form, as well as the individualized plan for pursuing the Bachelor of University Studies degree. Applications and guidelines for completing the plan are available through a B.U.S. adviser. The applicant will be admitted only if his or her interests and needs are served by the scope of the courses offered through the Continuing Education Division. Applicants will be granted admission to UMaine by the Office of Admission.

Common Questions

What are the degree requirements for a B.U.S. student?

There are six basic degree requirements:

- The candidate must complete a minimum of 120 hours of academic credit as approved by the B.U.S. advisor.
- Students must complete all general education requirements.
- Students must complete UST 100, Introduction to the Bachelor of University Studies; UST 300, Topics in University Studies (writing intensive within the major); and, UST 499, Senior Capstone.
- A minimum of 30 hours of academic credit must be completed in courses at the 300 level or above.
- The last 30 hours of academic credit must be completed in courses at the University of Maine.
- A minimum 2.0 grade point average and the completion of 120 hours of academic credit at “C” or better is required for graduation.

Will any prior college courses transfer into the B.U.S. program?

Credits from other institutions of higher education may be transferred if they meet the following criteria:

- Credits may be transferred from institutions of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting association.
- Credits may be transferred from educational programs recognized by the colleges of the University of Maine as having academic validity.

In addition, the applicant must arrange for official transcripts and catalogs to be forwarded from all previously attended colleges and universities. The evaluation of transcripts of academic work completed at institutions previously attended must be accepted as final at the time of admission.

About UMaine

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state’s premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls 12,000 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. Students are offered 88 bachelor’s degree programs, 64 master’s degree programs, 25 doctoral programs and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, go online (umaine.edu). Equal opportunity information also is available online (umaine.edu/eo).

How do I apply?

Visit go.umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.



Academic Programs 2011–12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.

