

10. Does the BUS degree apply to all Colleges?

The BUS degree applies to all colleges with minor plans. Students wishing to pursue a minor in an academic area that does not offer a minor may propose an individualized minor composed of some of the courses in that subject area. This option will be used when a student has interests and goals not served by existing minor programs. In this case, the student will work with a faculty mentor to develop a plan for the individualized minor using courses from any college. The plan is subject to the approval of the BUS Steering Committee.

11. Can any NAU student, including EC students apply for a BUS degree?

No, the BUS degree option is only available for Flagstaff Mountain-campus students who have completed 60 units. The BUS degree option is only available as a single major option for students with undeclared majors; i.e., if a student already has a major, he/she cannot apply for a BUS degree.

12. Will departments lose SCH for the BUS students in their minor?

No, they will not lose SCH. All academic units accrue the SCH from student enrollment in courses, regardless of students' major or minor. BUS students pursuing minors will also be reflected in headcount enrollment in minor programs and minors awarded. Individualized minors and the degrees will be counted as University College enrollments. However, it is recognized that courses and programs in all colleges support these enrollments.

13. How is the BUS program governed and how is it administered and funded?

The BUS Steering Committee is housed in University College and consists of representatives from each College across campus. The Steering Committee is supported by an advisory board of faculty mentors from individual disciplines. The steering committee

consults with the mentors in cases where students propose unusual individualized minors or where there are questions about combinations of minors. A faculty member of the BUS Steering Committee chairs the Committee. In addition, the Assistant Director of Gateway and the Associate Dean of University College serve as ex-officio members and UC provide administrative and budget support for the degree.

An instructor will be engaged each semester for students who will be taking the BUS capstone course (BUS 450C). The BUS 450C instructor helps students identify and contact appropriate disciplinary mentors for their capstone project. The instructor oversees the approval process for capstone projects, ensures that a formal syllabus is developed for the project, collects grades from all mentors at the end of the term and submits them in LOUIE. The instructor coordinates the collection of assessment data for the BUS capstone. Additionally, the BUS 405C instructor holds class sessions throughout the semester for students to get to know one another, to provide support with course work and offer assistance with program processes.

Another faculty member, the BUS 450C mentor helps the student develop a capstone project, drafts the syllabus, supervises the work, evaluates the work, and finally assigns a grade at the end of the term and submits it to the capstone instructor. These tasks are similar to those supervising an independent studies project. Mentors normally are identified within the discipline related to one of the student's minors and his or her project. The instructor can also be a mentor if the instructor happens to be faculty in the related discipline.

14. Will the BUS program undergo assessment?

An assessment plan will be developed in collaboration with the Office of Assessment and Curricular Design (OACD) that will include assessment of capstone learning outcomes and program outcomes once the degree program has a larger cohort. Students will be asked to submit portfolios and the Committee has already developed and implemented a rubric for the capstone project.

15. How can a faculty member get involved?

Faculty can serve two-year terms on the BUS Steering Committee; serve as mentors for students with individualized plans; and as mentors for BUS student capstone course projects (BUS 450C) or as the instructor for BUS 450C. Departments and units can also develop new minors with the BUS degree option in mind.

16. How can a student apply for the program?

Make an appointment with an advisor at the Gateway Student Success Center ASAP!

What's on Your Mind?

Please share your thoughts and ideas.

Website:

nau.edu/university-college/

Email: UCollege@nau.edu

Telephone: 523-1757

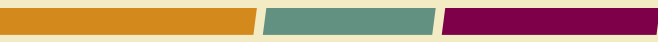


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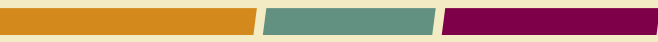
B.U.S.

Bachelor of University Studies



For students interested in earning an adaptable degree that can integrate their interests and specific career goals, the Bachelor of University Studies (BUS) is **a smart choice**. An emphasis in university studies, or interdisciplinary studies, allows students to synthesize the skills and objectives from a breadth of liberal studies and diversity courses, and two disciplines to apply to novel conditions specific to career aspirations. Such a degree provides students with the knowledge to address real world concerns.

In 1998 a national interdisciplinary studies task force sponsored by the Association of American Colleges & Universities reported increasing interdisciplinarity of knowledge, citing new developments in research and scholarship, the continuing evolution of new hybrid fields, and the expanding influence of particular interdisciplinary methods and concepts, as well as the pressing need for integrated approaches to address complex social, economic and technological problems. More than a decade later, the need to study issues holistically is even greater in an interconnected, increasingly more global society. According to the National Center for Education Statistics the number of degrees awarded in multi- or interdisciplinary studies has increased from 7,000 in 1973 to nearly 38,000 in 2010.



1. How was the BUS degree program conceived?

After the move of the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree to Extended Campuses, a group of faculty, deans, and advising professionals was formed to plan development of an interdisciplinary degree program for Flagstaff campus undergraduates (Interdisciplinary Program Development Committee). This group studied models in place at universities across the country. Program outcomes were developed after reviewing employer surveys of desired skills of college graduates. A proposal for the BUS was developed and discussed with academic leadership groups and the faculty senate. The program was approved by the UCC in AY 11-12 for implementation in AY12-13.

2. How many and what kind of students are choosing the BUS degree at NAU?

As of Spring 2013 there were 25 declared BUS students, with 41 applications to the BUS program. In Fall 2012 our first 2 students graduated with a BUS degree, and 7 graduated Spring 2013.

3. How does the BUS degree work?

Rather than completing a traditional major, students choose two minors. Upperclassmen who realize their original plan of study is not what they wish to complete can explore the BUS degree as an alternative to leaving NAU. Many students realize too late that their current degree path isn't what they'd expected or that no one degree exists at NAU that matches their interests. Working with an advisor from Gateway and considering the career aspirations of the student, existing coursework and progress toward minors is reviewed to develop a suitable BUS plan of study.

This degree may open up new opportunities for NAU students whose interests fall outside of established degree programs. Students can design an individualized plan that better suits their aspirations and career goals. Currently, students can develop an individualized minor in consultation with advisors and faculty. We anticipate rolling out an individualized major within the next two years.

4. Can any 2 minors together create a BUS degree? If so, how are these articulated to create a cohesive program for the student?

There are two kinds of minors that can be used for the BUS degree – the standard minors offered by various departments and programs or a BUS Individualized minor. The Individualized one is designed with guidance from Gateway and faculty mentors.

5. Can students stitch together any combination of courses to graduate?

No, students must follow the requirements for each minor or, if they choose the individualized plan, the BUS Steering Committee must approve their specific plan. In deciding whether to approve or not, the Committee will ensure the plan does not overlap with existing minors and provides sufficient academic rigor for the chosen emphasis area. The students put forth a detailed proposal for an individualized minor and are expected to work with a faculty mentor in choosing the courses. We require at least 12 credits unique to each of the two selected minors.

6. When a student wishes to pursue a BUS degree plan what process do they follow?

Gateway Student Success Center processes and approves standard applications for a B.U.S. degree combining two existing minors. The steering committee approves applications for unusual minor combinations and also for individualized minor plans. Academic units housing the minors are consulted when any potentially problematic minor combinations are proposed, and guidelines established by those units are followed.

7. Will the BUS take away from department autonomy or curriculum or will it compete with other degrees on campus?

No. The BUS will add opportunities for departments to make more use of minors, especially free-standing, new, or interdisciplinary minors. The BUS program works

closely with academic departments housing the minors students are pursuing. The BUS will not compete with other degrees on campus because students applying for the BUS might otherwise have not chosen any plan at all or not graduated at all. Students must already have 60 units completed when they consider the BUS Degree. These students do not want to continue in their current major, and this provides an option preferable to “starting over with another major” or leaving the university.

8. Is the BUS simply a degree for students who do not have the self-discipline to complete a regular major?

There is a wide variety of reasons leading to a student's individual decision to discontinue his/her pursuit of a particular major. In some cases, students cannot succeed in their major coursework and cannot continue. In many cases, other, more personal reasons are involved such as changing interests and life events. Financial Aid restrictions on funding availability are also a common reality for some of our students. Students may still need to spend several terms completing what is required to earn a BUS degree.

9. Does the BUS degree dilute a rigorous, high-quality education?

No, because this degree adds a rigorous individualized pathway for students to graduate. These students express that they are attracted to this degree program because it allows them to realize their personal goals for a customized degree that fits their particular career aspirations. The learning outcomes for the BUS program were designed based on the NAU University Learning Outcomes and on what employers most value in hiring baccalaureate graduates.

Examples – Our Fall 2012 Standard Bearer had minors in Political Science and Photojournalism & Document Studies. Because he completed his degree, he was able to begin his Master's in Public Administration program in Spring 2013. Another student was able to put together a combination of courses she felt would best prepare her for her event planning business by using HRM, merchandising and business courses in an individualized minor.