The Bachelor of Science in University Studies Degree

The Bachelor of Science in University Studies (BSUS) is a university-wide degree program designed for students who seek a course of study that is personally interesting and professionally relevant outside of the traditional majors path to successful degree completion. Students pursuing the BSUS degree are required to identify a career objective and design a specific degree plan of integrative coursework around a thematic core.

The University Studies Faculty Oversight Committee (FOC) is composed of faculty representatives from each of the colleges throughout the university. The committee provides final approval of each student’s course of study and thematic core and serves as a resource to University Studies students. Further, the committee provides advice and support to the University Studies Program.

Students are encouraged to examine traditional majors prior meeting with University Studies office personnel. Before visiting the University Studies office and meeting with an advisor, students must understand the following:

1. The University Studies program is a unique and truly interdisciplinary experience designed to meet a student’s education desires and career goals that do not fit neatly into traditional majors. The degree is not a simple patchwork of previously completed coursework and students should never assume that they can simply patch together previously-completed coursework. Designing a BSUS degree plan is time-consuming and complex. A minimum of 30 semester hours of thematic core coursework must be at or above the 3000 level, and thematic core selections cannot include more than 24 semester hours from a single prefix or approved course list from any interdisciplinary program.

2. A degree in University Studies is designed to be as academically rigorous as all ECU baccalaureate degree programs. Students must have a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA to be admitted to the program and they must maintain a 2.0 GPA in the University Studies core and thematic core through graduation.

3. Students should have a clear career objective before visiting with a University Studies advisor. Please examine the on-line pre-advising information. During the introductory course (UNIV 2000), all University Studies majors will write a proposal explaining the reason for pursuing the BSUS degree, describing their thematic core, and relating the thematic core to a personal career objective.

4. The University Studies Faculty Oversight Committee, which includes faculty representatives from each college within the university, must approve each student’s course of study and thematic core. The approval takes time and students may be asked to revise their proposals or make other changes that may extend their graduation deadline. The BSUS degree proposal and approval process cannot be expedited or altered in any way that undermines the integrity of the BSUS degree.

For more information about the University Studies program and BSUS degree, contact the University Studies Office: 252-737-5062, or 2421 Old Cafeteria Building.

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