Bachelor of Science in University Studies (BSUS):

The Bachelor of Science in University Studies (BSUS) degree program is a university-wide program that is designed for students who seek a course of study that is personally interesting and professionally relevant outside of the traditional “majors” approach to successful degree completion. This program offers students the opportunity to develop an integrated, yet individualized program of study within specific guidelines that meets either future career or advanced study needs. The program also provides opportunities for degree completion of non-traditional students, including those with some credit without degree completion (referred to as part-way home students) and military and veterans. Many of today’s careers and today’s generation seek learning opportunities that are more student-centered than major or program-centered. The BSUS is a pathway to such a program of study – one that meets students’ needs to prepare for the workforce or that provides alternative approaches to graduate study. This approach allows the individual student to attain full academic potential and clarify and achieve educational goals. It supports the university’s commitment to access by removing barriers to university completion for many students and the commitment to success by providing students with rich opportunities for meeting individual career or academic interests.

The BSUS degree program is for students who:

- are in good academic standing (GPA of 2.0 or above);
- develop an approved program of study degree compatible with their academic, career, and personal interests;
- develop an approved program of study around a chosen theme;
- wish to design a program for a career not met by an existing major;
- enjoy the interconnectedness and relationship among several subject areas;
- desire to complete a generalist degree; and/or
- for any number of reasons who cannot pursue the degree program and major of choice or who wish to pursue a unique degree program that is not available from the current university degree options.

The University Studies program is not designed to bypass a requirement of an existing program. A course of study is designed by the individual student to address individual student needs or interests. Students work with faculty in the appropriate disciplines and an academic advisor in designing a specific course of study around a specific theme which is otherwise not available in traditional university majors. The content of the program of study must be approved by the Faculty Oversight Committee (FOC), an oversight body made up of faculty from the various colleges.

**Requirements: Bachelor of Science in University Studies**

To declare a major in University Studies, students must have completed 30 semester hours with a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA and have a plan of study (a thematic core that has been approved by Faculty Oversight Committee.
Minimum degree requirement is 120 hours of credit, as follows:

1. Foundations curriculum requirements - 42 semester hours
2. Core – 13 semester hours
   a. LDSP 1000. Introduction to Leadership Studies (3) (F) or comparable structured thematic core course (comparable course must be approved by the University Studies Council).
   b. LDSP 4000. Leadership Studies Capstone Seminar (3) (S) or comparable structured thematic core course (comparable course must be approved by the University Studies Council).
   c. UNIVERSITY STUDIES Gateway Course (to be developed upon degree program approval). (1). Course will provide introduction to the major of University Studies including planning, research and preparation of the course of study for the “thematic core.” Students will be required to prepare both a written description of the “thematic core” which includes a rationale for the program of study, learning objectives, and questions the study will address; and make an oral presentation to the University Studies Council seeking approval of the proposed course of study. This course is also designed to encourage a sense of community among BSUS majors.
   d. 3 semester hours of coursework for the development of technology-related skills. (Possible courses include MIS 2223, ITEC 2000, BITE 2212 or equivalent).
   e. UNIVERSITY STUDIES Capstone Course (to be developed upon degree program approval). 3 semester hours of an internship, research or capstone project (may be satisfied by a special topics or similar course) related to the thematic core.
3. A thematic core approved by the University Studies Council – minimum of 48 semester hours; a maximum of 6 semester hours may be double-counted in the thematic core and electives. The thematic core is developed around a specific program of study that is not available through established majors. Such courses of study must be of sufficient depth to provide the student with a program that helps establish a basic level of expertise similar to that earned in a traditional major. (Examples of thematic cores are provided in Appendix A). The thematic core should include courses and experiences that build a skill set, determined as appropriate by the University Studies Council, in critical areas of communication, basic skills in technology, leadership, multicultural sensitivity, planning/organizing, critical thinking/analytical thinking/problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration/working in teams.
4. 17-23 hours of electives to complete requirements for graduation.
5. A minimum 2.0 grade point average for coursework taken in the required BSUS core and in the thematic core courses.
6. A minimum of 30 semester hours must be at or above the 3000 level of courses.
7. Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA required for graduation.