

Degree Programs and Requirements for Graduation

All students, regardless of major, must meet certain general requirements for certificate and degree programs. This chapter also outlines the requirements for obtaining multiple degrees and double majors as well as the general requirements for minors. Transfer programs are described at the end of this chapter, along with the university policies/regulations that govern eligibility for graduation and for attendance at commencement ceremonies. Specific requirements for each major are presented in the chapter describing each department's offerings. Degree programs and requirements for graduate degrees are described in the graduate bulletin at www.missouriwestern.edu/graduate.

Degrees/Majors at MWSU

AAS = Associate of Applied Science	BSBA = Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
AS = Associate of Science	BSE = Bachelor of Science in Education
BA = Bachelor of Arts	BSN = Bachelor of Science in Nursing
BFA = Bachelor of Fine Arts	BST = Bachelor of Science in Technology
BIS = Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies	BSW = Bachelor of Social Work
BM = Bachelor of Music	C = Teaching Certification
BME = Bachelor of Music Education	CERT = Certificate
BS = Bachelor of Science	

<u>Department/Major</u>	<u>Degrees</u>
Art	
Art	BSE
Digital Animation	BFA
Graphic Design	BFA
Studio Art	BFA
Bachelor of Science in Technology (2+2)	BST
Biology	
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	BS
Biology*	BS
Biotechnology	BS
Natural Science/Biology	BS, BS/C
Wildlife Conservation and Management	BS
Business	
Accounting	BSBA
Finance	BSBA
Management	BSBA
Marketing	BSBA
Chemistry	
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	BS
Chemistry	BS
Medical Technology	BS
Natural Science/Chemistry*	BS, BS/C

Communication Studies/Theatre/Cinema	
Speech Communication*	BA, BS
Speech/Theatre	BSE
Theatre and Video	BS
Computer Science/Mathematics/Physics	
Computer Information Systems*	BS
Computer Science	BS
Mathematics	BS, BS/C
Criminal Justice/Legal Studies	
Criminal Justice*	AS, BS
Legal Assistant	AS, CERT
Economics	
Economics	BS
Education	
Early Childhood Education	BSE
Elementary Education	BSE
Engineering Technology	
Construction Engineering Technology	BS
Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology	BS
Electronics Engineering Technology	BS
Manufacturing Engineering Technology*	AAS, BS
English/Foreign Languages/Journalism	
English*	BA, BSE
Convergent Media	BS
French	BA, BSE
Spanish	BA, BSE
Health/Physical Education/Recreation	
Physical Education	BS, BS/C
Recreation Sport Management*	BS
History/Philosophy/Geography	
History	BA, BA/C, BS, BS/C
Philosophy	BA
Interdisciplinary Studies	BIS
Music	
Music*	BA, BM, BME
Nursing and Allied Health	
Nursing	BSN
Health Informatics	BS
Health Information Technology	CERT
Physical Therapist Assistant	AAS
Political Science/Social Work/Sociology	
Political Science	BA, BS
Social Work	BSW
Sociology	BS

* See department information for Concentration Areas

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREES

Major Declaration

Every degree candidate must have on file in the Office of the Registrar an approved Major Declaration Form. Students complete this form with an advisor in the academic department where the major is housed. The Major Declaration Form is valid for six years.

In the process of earning a degree, students must complete requirements for that degree and any appropriate state certification requirements. If certification or statutory requirements change and additional requirements become effective during the time a student is enrolled in a program, the new requirements take precedence over previously existing degree or certification standards.

A University exit exam is required of all graduating baccalaureate students; visit www.missouriwestern.edu/ETSPP for more information. An exit exam may also be required by the academic department housing the major of the graduating student; confirm any necessary exit exams with individual academic department.

Ten-Year Old Credit

College credit more than ten years old cannot be used as part of the student's major requirement unless approved by the department of the declared major. College credit more than ten years old may be used to fulfill general education or elective requirements for a degree if any of the credit is applicable. This determination will be made by the Registrar's Office.

State Legislation Requirement

Sections 10370, 10374, 1037a, 1037b, 1037c (SCS for SB4) of the laws of Missouri, 1947 (Sixth General Assembly), prescribe that all candidates for a degree issued by the colleges and universities of Missouri must have completed courses of instruction in and "satisfactorily passed an examination on the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Missouri, and in American History, including the study of American Institutions." Students may comply with the law by successfully completing one of the following courses at MWSU: HIS 140, American History to 1865; HIS 150, American History since 1865; or PSC 101, American National Government; or by completion of an equivalent course (as evaluated at MWSU) from another institution.

Additional Required Tests

In order to measure student progress toward educational goals, students are required to participate in periodic assessment efforts at MWSU. University-wide assessments include, but are not limited to, a university exit exam, and departmental exit tests (see department for more information). Transcripts and graduation may be held if a student does not participate in this required testing.

Misrepresenting or Falsifying Information

Any student who misrepresents, falsifies, or withholds required information will be referred to the Admissions and Graduation Committee for review and appropriate action. Such action may result in being denied admission to MWSU or immediate dismissal from MWSU.

ONE-YEAR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Missouri Western State University offers a certificate program with a major in Legal Assistant and in Health Information Technology. To earn the certificate, students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours with a minimum overall GPA of 2.0. Specific course requirements are listed under the department administering the program.

General Requirements for One-Year Certificate Programs

A student must*:

- Complete the required courses for the certificate program;
- Earn a minimum of 30 credit hours (100 level and above, maximum of 6 CED credit hours applicable);
- Earn an overall GPA of at least 2.0;
- Earn 9 of the last 15 credit hours at MWSU in institutional coursework (exclusive of credit by examination);
- Earn an overall GPA of at least 2.0 in those courses needed to satisfy the requirements of the selected major; and
- Participate in required departmental and campus-wide assessments.

*Some certificate programs may require more than 30 credit hours, may require a higher GPA, may have minimum grade requirements and may have additional certification requirements. (See actual degree program for specific requirements.)

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Associate of Science (AS) degree is designed for the student who desires a concentrated program (usually technical in nature) in preparation for employment in health, industry or public service. The degree is available with majors in Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies. An Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree is available with majors in Manufacturing Engineering Technology, and Physical Therapist Assistant.

General Requirements for Associate Programs

A student must*:

- Complete the general studies and major requirements;
- Earn a minimum of 62 credit hours (100 level and above, maximum of 6 CED credit hours applicable);
- Earn an overall GPA of at least 2.0;
- Earn 20 of the last 30 credit hours at MWSU in institutional coursework (exclusive of credit by examination);
- Earn an overall GPA of at least 2.0 in those courses needed to satisfy the requirements of the selected major; and
- Participate in required departmental and campus-wide assessments.

*Some associate degree programs may require more than 62 credit hours, may require a higher GPA, may have minimum grade requirements and may have additional certification requirements. (See actual degree program for specific requirements.)

General Studies Requirements for Associate Degrees

The required general studies curriculum consists of a common core which assures that all associate degree-seeking students will be provided the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills to:

- Think critically and reason analytically;
- Write and speak clearly and effectively;
- Function as an enlightened citizen of our democratic society ;
- Develop an appreciation of the cultural aspects of civilization;
- Appreciate the means for gaining and maintaining mental and physical health.

	<i>Credits</i>
Category One — Basic Skills	6
ENG 104 College Writing and Rhetoric (3)	
COM 104 Oral Communication (3)	
Category Two—Social Sciences	3
Select one of the following courses:	
HIS 140 American History to 1865 (3)	OR
HIS 150 American History since 1865 (3)	OR
PSC 101 American National Government (3)	
Category Three—Humanities	3
Select one of the following courses:	
ART 100 Introduction to Art (3)	OR
ENG 210 Approaches to Literature (3)	OR
ENG 220 Introduction to Reading Texts (3)	OR
HIS 200 Ancient and Medieval Civilization (3)	OR
HIS 210 Early Modern Civilization (3)	OR
HIS 230 Modern Europe: 1789 to the Present (3)	OR
HUM 203 Humanities: Ancient and Medieval (3)	OR
HUM 204 Humanities: Middle Ages to the French Revolution (3)	OR
HUM 205 Humanities: American Revolution to the Present (3)	OR
PHL 210 Introduction to Philosophy (3)	OR
MUS 101 Perspectives in Music (3)	OR
THR 113 Introduction to Theatre (3)	
Category Four—Physical Health	3
PED 101 Fitness and Wellness, including lab (3)	
TOTAL	15

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Missouri Western State University offers eleven baccalaureate degrees, with majors in various fields. The baccalaureate degrees offered are:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
- Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Music Education
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Education
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Technology (Two Plus Two)
- Bachelor of Social Work

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree is broadly based in the liberal arts and sciences. It is usually pursued by students who plan, upon graduation, to enter graduate school or a professional school such as law, medicine, or dentistry, and by students who plan to seek employment in the areas of the arts, languages, social work, and government service.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree is considered a professional major degree and is recommended to anyone intending to enroll in graduate study (MFA) or work in the professional world of art.

The **Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS)** degree is focused on the development of broad intellectual abilities and skills rather than a large concentration within a traditional academic discipline. This degree option may be of special interest to students seeking a degree tailored to specific interest not accommodated in an established MWSU major, students who plan, upon graduation, to enter graduate or professional school and/or students transferring to MWSU with an AS or AAS degree.

The **Bachelor of Music (BM)** degree is based on more concentrated and specialized areas of study in music and is usually pursued by students who want to pursue a professional area of study or studies in music and related fields.

The **Bachelor of Music Education (BME)** degree is designed to prepare individuals for careers in teaching music, primarily in K-12.

The **Bachelor of Science (BS)** degree is based on more concentrated and specialized areas of study in one or more fields and is usually pursued by students who want to pursue a professional area of study or studies in the natural or social sciences.

The **Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA)** degree is designed for the student who desires a broad foundation in several areas related to business principles as applied in business, industry, or government.

The **Bachelor of Science in Education (BSE)** degree is designed to prepare individuals for careers in teaching.

The **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)** degree is designed to prepare individuals to practice professional nursing. The graduate is eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse.

The **Bachelor of Science in Technology "Two Plus Two" (BST)** degree is designed for the student who has completed a career-oriented associate degree program (AAS or AS) and desires the bachelor's degree with an additional concentration in an approved area of study.

The **Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)** degree is designed for the student whose goal is preparation for professional social work practice.

General Requirements for Baccalaureate Programs

A student must*:

- Complete the general studies and major requirements;
- Earn a minimum of 124 credit hours, including 60 from a senior college in the following departments: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Communications Studies, Theatre and Cinema; Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics, Economics, English, Foreign Languages and Journalism, Political Science, Social Work and Sociology, History, Philosophy and Geography, Music, Psychology (100 level and above, maximum of 6 CED credit hours applicable);
- Earn an overall GPA of at least 2.0;
- Earn an overall GPA of at least 2.0 in those courses needed to satisfy the requirements of the selected major;
- Earn a minimum of 30 credit hours in upper-division courses (numbers in the 300s and 400s). Lower-division transfer courses accepted as meeting upper division departmental course requirements cannot be used to fulfill this requirement;
- Earn 12 credit hours in one foreign language for all Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees;
- Earn 30 of the last 45 credit hours at MWSU in institutional course work (exclusive of credit by examination); and
- Participate in required departmental and campus wide assessments.

*Some baccalaureate degree programs may require more than 124 credit hours, may require a higher GPA, may have minimum grade requirements and may have additional certification requirements. (See actual degree program for specific requirements.)

General Studies Requirements for Bachelor Degrees

General Education at Missouri Western State University consists of a common core of curriculum offerings necessary to equip students for successful and fulfilled lives as educated and active citizens. The required general education curriculum consists of a broad range of courses that assures that all baccalaureate-degree-seeking students acquire academic skills and knowledge necessary for understanding, communicating, and performing in a diverse and complex world. Students completing courses in the general education program will be provided the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills to:

- Write and speak clearly and effectively;
- Think critically and reason analytically;
- Locate, organize, evaluate, and synthesize information from print and electronic sources;
- Understand and appreciate moral values and ethical choices;
- Gain a greater awareness of the present by understanding other cultures and times;
- Understand and enjoy aesthetic experiences and share in related creative activities;
- Develop an understanding of fundamental mathematical concepts and their applications;
- Understand common phenomena in the physical and natural environment and understand the methods by which they are studied through lectures and the connected laboratory experience;
- Understand and appreciate the means of gaining and maintaining mental and physical health.

Courses meeting the first four goals concentrate on the development of basic learning skills such as communicating, higher order thinking, managing information and valuing. Other courses in the general education curriculum meet the remaining goals of knowledge acquisition in the areas of social and behavioral sciences, humanities and fine arts, mathematics, life and physical sciences, and health and physical education.

A student who has completed all MWSU general studies requirements for a baccalaureate degree may request a notation be placed on their transcript stating such by contacting the Registrar's Office.

Students earning a baccalaureate degree should select from the following general studies courses.

		<i>Credits</i>
Category One — Basic Skills		12-14
1. MAT 110 or MAT 112 or MAT 116 or MAT 130 or MAT 137 or MAT 147 or MAT 167		
2. ENG 104	College Writing and Rhetoric (3)	AND
ENG 108	College Writing and Research (3)	OR
ENG 112	Honors Composition and Rhetoric (3)	
3. COM 104	Oral Communication (3)	
Category Two — Natural Sciences		8-10
Select a minimum of 8 credits from two of the following groups:		
1. BIO 101	Principles of Biology (5)	OR
BIO 105	Principles of Organismal Biology (5)	
2. CHE 101	Introductory Chemistry (4)	OR
CHE 104	Fundamentals of Chemistry (5)	OR
CHE 111	General Chemistry (5)	
3. ESC 111	Physical Geology (4)	

4. PHY 101	Physics for the Liberal Arts (4)	OR
PHY 107	Introduction to Physics (4)	OR
PHY 110	College Physics I (4)	OR
PHY 210	University Physics I (5)	
5. PHY 104	Introduction to Astronomy (4)	

Category Three — Social Sciences

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Select 9 hours with at least one course from each of the two following groups:

1. PSY 101	General Psychology (3)	OR
SOC 110	Introduction to Sociology (3)	OR
SOC 120	General Anthropology (3)	OR
GEO 100	World Geography (3)	OR
ECO 101	Current Issues in the Economy (3)	OR
ECO 260	Principles of Macroeconomics (3)	OR
ECO 261	Principles of Microeconomics (3)	
2. HIS 140	American History to 1865 (3)	OR
HIS 150	American History since 1865 (3)	OR
PSC 101	American National Government (3)	

Category Four — Humanities

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Select one course each from three of the following groups:

1. HIS 200	Ancient and Medieval Civilization (3)	OR
HIS 210	Early Modern Civilization (3)	OR
HIS 230	Modern Europe: 1789 to the Present (3)	OR
HUM 203	Humanities: Ancient and Medieval (3)	OR
HUM 204	Humanities: Middle Ages to the French Revolution (3)	OR
HUM 205	Humanities: American Revolution to the Present (3)	
2. ENG 210	Approaches to Literature (3)	OR
ENG 220	Introduction to Reading Texts (3)	OR
PHL 210	Introduction to Philosophy (3)	OR
PHL 230	Ethics (3)	OR
HUM 250	Comparative Religious (3)	
3. ART 100	Introduction to Art (3)	OR
MUS 101	Perspectives in Music (3)	OR
THR 113	Introduction to Theatre (3)	
4. FRE 100	Elementary French I (3)	OR
GER 100	Elementary German I (3)	OR
SPA 100	Elementary Spanish I (3)	OR
	Any higher level 3-credit hour language course	

Category Five — Physical Health

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1. PED 101	Fitness and Wellness, <i>including lab</i> (3)	
2. One lifetime sports physical activity (1)		OR
MIL 105	(1)	

TOTAL**42-46****State Certification or Statutory Requirements**

In the process of earning a degree, students must complete requirements for that degree and any necessary state certification requirements. If certification or statutory requirements change and additional requirements become effective during the time a student is enrolled in a program, the new requirements take precedence over previously existing degree or certification standards.

Liberal Arts and Sciences Areas of Focus

A student graduating with a major in any of the disciplines within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (except Medical Technology) is required to take one course designated

as LAS Writing and a second course designated as LAS Computer Literacy. In addition, students with majors in the departments of Art, Communication Studies/Theatre/Cinema, Economics, English/Foreign Languages/Journalism, Political Science/Social Work/Sociology, History/Philosophy/Geography, Music, and Psychology are required to take one course designated LAS Ethics, and another course designated LAS International/Intercultural. For students with majors in other LAS departments, it is only recommended that students take a LAS Ethics and a LAS International/Intercultural course. If a course is designated in more than one area, the student must choose which one of the four area requirements it will satisfy.

1. **LAS Writing.** A course in which faculty assign students both formal and informal writing in order to increase student learning, improve student writing, and initiate students into discipline-specific forms of written communication.

2. **LAS Computer Literacy.** A course designed to teach discipline-specific computer software and hardware. A partial list of skills which may be taught include: data collection and analysis, word processing, desktop publishing, ethical or human issues of computing, discipline-specific applications of computer technology.

3. **LAS Ethics.** A course in which issues of ethical concern to professionals in their major field of study are addressed. These courses will give significant attention to professional codes of ethics, case studies identifying ethical dilemmas, or issues of contemporary (or historical) social concern.

4. **LAS International/Intercultural.** A course which presents a significant recognition, awareness, and understanding of cultural or international diversity.

These courses are designated (by previous labels) in the course descriptions listed with each academic department. Preferably, students will take these courses within their major; however, students may choose to fulfill this requirement with courses outside their major.

MULTIPLE DEGREES AND DOUBLE MAJORS

Two-Year Associate Degrees

1. Prior to graduation, a student may earn a double major within an associate degree.
2. After the original associate degree has been awarded, the student is not eligible to earn an additional major. However, a second Associate degree may be earned by completing a minimum of twenty (20) additional credits beyond the original graduation credits, and satisfactorily fulfilling all requirements of the second degree program.

Four-Year Baccalaureate Degrees

1. Prior to graduation, a student may earn a double major (124 minimum credit hours, courses numbered 100-499) or a double degree (minimum 144 credit hours, courses numbered 100-499).
2. The university will confer two baccalaureate degrees during the same semester, provided the student meets graduation requirements for each degree and has earned a minimum of 144 credit hours.
3. After the original baccalaureate degree(s) has been awarded, the student is not able to earn an additional major. However, a second degree (baccalaureate or associate) may be earned by satisfactorily fulfilling all requirements of the second degree program and, in doing so, completing a minimum of twenty (20) additional credit hours beyond the original graduation hours.

MINORS

A minor is a subject or course of study that provides the essence of a major discipline, but requires less intensive concentration than a major field of study. Minors are available in a variety of academic subject areas and those officially-recognized minors, as listed in the *MWSU Undergraduate Catalog*, will be placed on a transcript. Students must declare and successfully complete a four-year major program in order to receive credit for a minor. To earn a minor, students must attain a minimum GPA of 2.0 in minor coursework. Upon graduation, however, students may not complete or declare an additional minor unless that minor is accompanied by an additional degree and major. Minor coursework must consist of a minimum of four credit hours beyond the student's major, emphasis, concentration, and/or general studies requirements. Students cannot be awarded a minor in the same area as their major, emphasis, or concentration.

Minors at MWSU

Athletic Coaching
 Art History
 Biology
 Chemistry
 Childhood Studies (Departments of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies, Education, Health/Physical Education/Recreation, Nursing, English/Foreign Languages/Journalism, Political Science/Social Work/Sociology, Psychology)
 Computer Information Systems
 Computer Science
 Computer Technology
 Construction Management
 Creative Writing
 Criminal Justice
 Economics
 English Education
 English Literature
 English Technical Communication
 Finance (Accounting majors only)
 French
 General Business (Non-business majors only)
 Geography
 German
 Health Informatics and Information Management
 History, European
 History, United States
 Humanities
 International Studies (Departments of Business, English/Foreign Languages/Journalism, Political Science/Social Work/Sociology, History/Philosophy/Geography)
 Journalism
 Legal Studies
 Manufacturing Technology
 Mathematics
 Military Science
 Music
 Musical Theatre (Speech/Theatre majors and Vocal Music majors only)
 Philosophy
 Physics
 Political Science, American Government
 Political Science, International Affairs

Psychology
Recreation Sport Management
Religion
Sociology
Spanish
Speech and Theatre
Speech Communication
Theatre
Video Production
Wellness (Non-physical education majors)

GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT

Application for Graduation

To be considered as a candidate for graduation, the student must declare candidacy by filing an Application for Graduation in the Office of the Registrar. Applications are available in Eder 102 or at www.missouriwestern.edu/registrar. To assure the candidates' records are reviewed prior to the final semester by the Graduate Records Coordinator in the Registrar's Office, the following deadlines must be observed:

Fall graduates—July 1
Spring graduates—November 1
Summer graduates—March 1

Students must submit documentation showing that all requirements have been met (i.e. submission of transcripts with transfer work completed, exit exams, makeup of incomplete grades) within 60 days of the end of the semester in which they plan to graduate. Students who do not meet this deadline, must file a new application for graduation along with the required documentation.

Graduate Honors

Students completing degree requirements with an overall GPA of 3.9 or higher will graduate with Highest Honors (summa cum laude). Those who have earned an overall GPA of 3.75 or higher but below 3.9 will graduate with High Honors (magna cum laude). Those who have earned an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher but below 3.75 will graduate with Honors (cum laude). A student earning an MWSU certificate with an overall GPA of 3.5 or above will be awarded the certificate with honors.

Commencement

Commencement is held in December and May. Participation in commencement is voluntary on the part of the student.

Students who complete all degree requirements in the fall will be eligible to attend the DECEMBER commencement ceremony. Students who complete all degree requirements in the spring and summer will be eligible to attend the MAY commencement ceremony.

Commencement attendance information is required on the Application for Graduation form found in the Registrar's Office.

TRANSFER PROGRAMS

Pre-professional programs in specialized fields are offered for students who plan to transfer to a university for the completion of their studies. Students choosing these programs should select a transfer institution early and should work closely with their academic advisor and counselor. The following areas are those in which most students concerned with transfer programs express an interest: architecture, dentistry, engineering, journalism, law, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, veterinary medicine.

Missouri Western State University participates in professional school programs that allow students to use credit from their professional school for credit at MWSU. The following guidelines must be followed: (1) MWSU will accept a maximum of 30 semester credit hours earned in a professional school as credit toward the baccalaureate degree and thus waive the resident requirement for graduation. (2) General education requirements must be completed before the student transfers to the professional school. (3) Degree requirements in the student's major field for the baccalaureate degree must be substantially completed at Missouri Western State University with limited substitutions from the professional program as approved by the department. (4) The last 60 credit hours prior to the professional school transfer must have been completed at MWSU. (5) MWSU will grant the baccalaureate degree with written verification from the professional degree upon the student's completion of the necessary coursework.

Missouri Western students have the opportunity to be selected into the Partners Program between the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and MWSU. Detailed information on this program can be found in the Biology section of the undergraduate catalog.