

How to Satisfy BU's General Education Requirements

AND OTHER INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE TOPIC

How do I Graduate from BU?

You need four things:

- At least 120 credits
- Satisfactory academic standing (often a 2.0 or greater GPA)
- To satisfy the requirements of your major
- **To satisfy the MyCore general education requirements**

What is General Education?

General education is the value behind a bachelor's degree.

- Employers and other organizations, value your capacity to learn about a broad array of topics or **disciplines**.
- For example: By having a bachelor's degree, you are telling the world you can at least be proficient in something you might not be an expert at. Which means you can be more versatile for their purposes – General education makes you more valuable.
- They expect you to know a great deal about one particular area (your major).
- But also a little about a broad range of items (general education).
- Additionally, general education ensures you are minimally proficient in key disciplines such as English and math.
- For example: Not all English Professors need to know about psychology, but all Psychology Professors need to know how to read and write.

Bloomsburg University's General Education Requirements

At BU, our MyCore GenEd requirements are about **competencies**.

- Meaning, by the time you leave here, with degree in hand, you have met certain standards, or have displayed that you are minimally competent in key areas – Or as we call them – **GOALS!**

In other words, you do not have to take strictly BU classes to develop all of these competencies – You just have to complete them by the time you are ready to graduate.

- For example: As long as they count toward the GenEds, you can use transfer credits, you can test out of certain classes, you can even work toward completion through areas like athletics, student organizations, and leadership roles!

Back to the Original Question – How do I Graduate?

You need four things:

1. At least 120 credits:
 - **Credits** earned through taking classes (*Most* classes at BU are worth 3 credits).
2. Satisfactory academic standing (no less than a 2.0 GPA – can be higher for some majors):
 - Your GPA is calculated by grades you get in class – A perfect GPA is a 4.0 (all “A”s).
3. To satisfy the requirements of your major:
 - Every major is different – However, the department created a curriculum designed to make you well educated in a particular discipline or area.
4. **To satisfy the general education requirements**
 - You satisfy the GenEds through earning **points** in **10 different goals**.

Points AND Credits?!? What are you Talking About?

Most people understand credits – Credits are calculated off of the amount of time & effort a particular class takes.

- Credits are used toward the 120, your major, and your free electives (Questions? Ask your advisor - There are many fine details to higher education).
- There is a good deal of variability here, just know MOST BU classes are 3 credits (in reality, there are classes with 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 credits here at BU – but that is another topic).

Points, on the other hand, are just for GenEds.

- MOST points are earned through taking classes (*The same classes you are taking for credit*)
- You can also earn points through co-curricular learning experiences (CLEs).
 - CLEs are experiences or activities that have been determined to have substantial educational value – Not all learning happens in the classroom.

Okay. Points... How Many do I Need?

All good things come to those who wait. First let's talk about goals.

- **In order to satisfy BU's GenEd requirements, you need to earn a certain amount of points in 10 different goals:**

1. Communication
2. Information Literacy
3. Analytical and Quantitative Skills
4. Cultures and Diversity
5. Natural Sciences
6. Social Sciences
7. Arts and Humanities
8. Second Language
9. Healthy Living
10. Citizenship

How Many Points?

Goal	Goal Description	Minimum GEPs	Minimum Disciplines
1	Communication	7	3
2	Information Literacy	2	1
3	Analytical & Quantitative Reasoning	5	2
4	Cultures & Diversity	5	2
5	Natural Sciences	5	2
6	Social Sciences	5	2
7	Arts & Humanities	5	2
8	Second Language	2	1
9	Healthy Living	2	1
10	Citizenship	2	1

* Students must also complete Foundations of College Writing and a departmentally approved math course.

What is a Discipline?

Think of a discipline like a major, area of study, or a department where:

- Arabic is one discipline
- Communication Studies is a second discipline
- English is a third discipline

So for Goal #1 Communication, you need 7 points, from 3 disciplines:

- Arabic 203 earns 1 point toward Goal 1
- CommStud 103 earns 3 points toward Goal 1
- English 101 earns 3 points toward Goal 1

For the Visual Learners in the Group...

	Points required		7	2	5	5	5	5	5	5	2	2	2	
	Disciplines required		3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	
Course Prefix (Dept)	Course Name	TOTAL Credits	1. Communication	2. Information Literacy	3. Analytical and Quantitative Skills	4. Cultures and Diversity	5. Natural Sciences	6. Social Sciences	7. Arts and Humanities	8. Second Language	9. Healthy Living	10. Citizenship	TOTAL GEPS	
ACCT320	International Accounting	3				3							3	
ACCT381	Income Tax Preparation	3										2	2	
ANTHRO101	Introduction to Anthropology	3				1	1	1					3	
ANTHRO102	Anthropology and World Problems	3				1		1				1	3	
ANTHRO200	Principles of Cultural Anthropology	3				1		2					3	
ANTHRO210	Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology	3				1	1	1					3	
ANTHRO220	Human Origins	3				1	2						3	
ANTHRO221	Forensic Anthropology	3					3						3	
ARABIC099	Arabic placement exam	0								2			2	
ARABIC102	Arabic 2	3				1				2			3	
ARABIC203	Arabic 3	3	1			1							2	
ARABIC204	Arabic 4	3	1			1			1				3	
ARABIC211	Cultures in the Arabic-speaking World	3				1			2				3	
ARABIC212	Euro-Arab Cinema	3				1			2				3	
ARTHSTRY101	Introduction to Art History	3				2			1				3	
ARTHSTRY215	American Art	3							3				3	
ARTHSTRY225	History of Architecture	3				2			1				3	

Do NOT Print the List

The image you just saw was a screenshot of the General Education **Approved Courses List**: http://www.bloomu.edu/documents/mycore/GEP_Tracking.pdf

BU is constantly adding new classes and CLEs to the list so please just keep the link – *Do not print the list. You will not have the most up-to-date information.*

You'll notice a wide variety of classes count toward different goals. You might also notice, that not every class in a discipline counts toward the GenEds.

Specific Example

If I'm an English major, I'm going to take quite a few English classes, because that is what the English Department has determined to be my curriculum.

But I am also going to take some Biology courses, some Art Courses, some Psych, History, Spanish... You name it.

The reason why I am in classes besides English, is for GenEds

- There is a long history and tradition of a liberal arts / comprehensive education – just understand that GenEds are here to help you be well rounded and exposed to a little of many topics.

Specific Example: Goal #4 Requires – 5 Points from 2 Disciplines

Goal #4 is complete

History 121 – 3 points in Goal #4

- And

English 111 – 3 points in Goal #4

Adds up to 6 points in Goal #4 from 2 disciplines.

Goal #4 is NOT complete

History 121 – 3 points in Goal #4

- And

History 122 – 3 points in Goal #4

- And

History 125 – 3 points in Goal #4

Adds up to 9 points in Goal #4, but only from one discipline

Ultimately This is Your Responsibility

Keep track of your classes along the way.

Know which classes you are using for your major, your GenEds, free electives, or development. Many classes simply do not have GenEd points.

		Points required	7	2	5	5	5	5	5	2	2	2	
		Disciplines required	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	
Course Prefix (Dept)	Course Name	TOTAL Credits	1. Communication	2. Information Literacy	3. Analytical and Quantitative Skills	4. Cultures and Diversity	5. Natural Sciences	6. Social Sciences	7. Arts and Humanities	8. Second Language	9. Healthy Living	10. Citizenship	TOTAL GEPS
COMMSTUD103	Public Speaking	3	3										3
EGGS101	Intro to Physical Geography	3			1		2						3
EGGS106	The Planets	3					3						3
ENRICH60	Writing 2	3											
PSYCH131	Psychology of Adjustment	3										2	2
ITM175	Information and Technology Management Applications	3		2	1								3
MATH101	Mathematical Thinking	3			3								3

In Closing

Know why you are in the classes you are in – Ask yourself does this class count toward:

- My major? (Second major?)
- My minor?
- My GenEds?
- My development?
- My free electives?

If it does not count for one of these, why am I in this class?

Never hesitate to check in with your advisor – OFTEN!