



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ARIZONA

# Request to Increase Transfer Credit Limits

Bachelor of General Studies





# BGS Mission

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The General Studies Program (GS) provides a broad, multidisciplinary course of study and offers a Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree. The BGS degree prepares students to think critically and analytically across a wide range of disciplines or fields of study while at the same time focusing on one emphasis. The overall goals for the BGS curriculum are to promote an understanding of cultural differences and the impact of an educated citizen and responsible member in global society; to develop abilities to effectively communicate ideas using a variety of different media (oral, written, visual) and basic information technologies; and to help students develop and identify personal strengths, opportunities, and potential contributions to their area of interests.



# Pathway to Degree Completion

- **Students who have broad interests and who wish to complete a multidisciplinary degree rather than a traditional single-discipline degree**
- **Transfer students, especially non-traditional students who have already completed general education courses and/or associate degrees**
- **Students who began as pre-majors in a particular area but have not been admitted to their desired degree program**
- **Students who have not declared a major but are close to, or over, the 60 units/time to declare a major policy**



# Diversifying the University

## Enhancing one of UArizona's Most Diverse Degrees\*

Students of Color

**51%**

of BGS Majors are  
Students of Color

Female Students

**42%**

of BGS Majors are Female

First Generation

**43%**

of BGS Majors  
are First Generation  
College Students

The BGS Degree Program is one of the most diverse (in the broadest sense of the term) at UArizona.

\*figures reflect students from Main Campus, Arizona  
Online, Distance, & Global







# Flexible Degree Requirements

Well-suited for community college transfers

The flexibility of the BGS degree program can provide a smoother curricular transition from community college contexts.

<b>English (6 units)</b>	<b>Math (3 units)</b>	<b>Gen Ed Reqs</b>
<b>1-yr non-English Language Proficiency</b>	<b>BGS Concentration (27 units)</b>	<b>BGS Emphasis (27 units)</b>





# Robust Online Presence

Potential for greater virtual exchange and collaboration

Currently the BGS degree program is home to **370+ online majors**.

Because of the diverse curriculum and flexible degree requirements, BGS is scalable to accommodate students through our online offerings.





# Network of Distance Learning Opportunities

Infrastructure to support Arizona transfer students

Currently, BGS has only **11 Distance** majors.

Infrastructure is in place to accommodate and support more students as we have teamed with the UArizona Near You Network to increase these offerings.





# Diverse Course Articulation

Accommodates a wide  
variety of transfer credits

The multidisciplinary approach of BGS means that students coming into the program can draw upon a broader range of courses that will articulate into the degree program through the diversity of courses that count toward the different emphases.

This makes it more likely that community college courses can count toward completion of their degree.





# Request for an Exception to Credit Transfer Limit

To allow up to 75 units to transfer  
from community colleges

Currently the maximum number of units  
that are allowed to transfer from a  
community college is 64 units.





# Request for an Exception to Credit Transfer Limit

## Rationale

- Address equity issues at UArizona and in the state by increasing access to higher education for Arizona residents
- Student Success (admission, retention, persistence, and graduation rates)
- Competition with 4-year degree programs at Arizona community colleges and online programs
- Commensurate with similar degree programs at peer institutions



# Analysis of ABOR Peer Institutions

Peer Institution	BGS equivalent	transfer credits
UC Davis	"individual" major	80
UCLA	"individual" major	80
Univ. Florida	Interdisciplinary Studies	60
Univ. Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)	Interdisciplinary Studies	80
Univ of Iowa	Liberal Arts	60
Univ of MD (College Park)	Interdisciplinary Studies	60
Michigan State	Interdisciplinary Humanities	56
Minnesota-Twin Cities	Individualized Studies	60
UNC-Chapel Hill	Interdisciplinary Studies	75
Ohio State	Comparative Studies	60
Penn State	Letters, Arts, and Sciences	84
Texas A&M	University Studies	up to 75
UT Austin	no equivalent	Varies by program
UW-Seattle	no equivalent	90
UW-Madison	"individual" major	72



# Financial Implications

## BGS is RCM neutral

- BGS majors are not calculated within university budget model; so, COH does not stand to profit from increased majors.
- An increase in transfer credits means that some SCH revenue will be lost; however, this amounts to less than one semester of courses at UArizona.
- This revenue loss will be more than offset by increased recruitment as UArizona becomes more accessible to a greater number of students from community colleges.





# Policy Precedents

## Statutory/Policy History

- 1996 Transfer Articulation Task Force Report (64 transfer units)
- 2007 NAU 90/30 plan (90 transfer units)
- 2009 UArizona Bachelor of Applied Science (75 transfer units)
- 2021 NAU BS Biological Sciences (75 transfer units)



Questions and/or Comments?