University College

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PACE Center

Undergraduate Academic Center Room 120
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http://pace.txstate.edu/

At Texas State students begin their educational journey at the PACE Center—the University's commitment to Personalized Academic and Career Exploration. It reflects a philosophy of enhancing student achievement within and outside the classroom through four student-centered programs:

1. Academic Advising - helps students select the right classes, build a class schedule customized to meet their personal and academic needs, and develop a plan for educational success focused on graduation.
2. Career Counseling - helps students clarify career interests and develop the resume needed to successfully transition to the professional world.
3. Mentoring - helps students become engaged in their major and connect to mentors and peers, and develop networking skills essential to career success.
4. University Seminar (US 1100) - this required course helps students transition to Texas State by leading them in discovering campus support networks, offering opportunities to make new friends, and providing mentoring from one of the University's exceptional faculty.

University College Advising Center provides academic advising for students who are undecided about a major, those who are changing majors, those who are working toward admission into a particular program, and those majoring in General Studies. Advisors will assist students in researching options, evaluating alternatives, and making decisions so that they may make realistic and satisfying choices of majors. They will also provide guidance in completing general education requirements. The advising goal is to provide accessible, friendly, and accurate advising.

University College Advising Center and PACE Center are located on the first floor of the Undergraduate Academic Center and is open between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Services include one-on-one appointments, advising sessions before and during registration, and probation advising sessions.

General Studies major

The objective of the Bachelor of General Studies major in General Studies (B.G.S.) is to help each student who enters the program develop a unique career goal that is matched by three Texas State minors. Those best suited for the B.G.S. either have a career goal which is not well supported by a traditional Texas State major or that traditional major or major/minor is not the best option. Others may be undecided or unclear about career choices but are willing to make the decisions that will lead to a clear career/degree plan with linked minors.

The B.G.S. starts with GNST 3350 – Interdisciplinary Preparation, a course that helps students learn how to assess their talents, match them with potential careers, and maximize or choose three Texas State minors to best prepare them for the requirements of the career. Then they get practice in interviewing and preparing resumes, cover letters, etc., and discover how to market themselves. Following completion of most of the courses in the three B.G.S. minors, the final B.G.S. course (GNST 4350 – Interdisciplinary Project) challenges students to make use of their education in tailoring a research-based project that innovatively contributes to the career, incorporates all three minors, and gives them good supporting material to use in job interviews.

A 30-minute Information Session is required for all students seeking to learn more about a major in General Studies. These are scheduled about once every two weeks (more often during registration/orientation). B.G.S. faculty/staff will provide information regarding the requirements and criteria needed to successfully enter and complete the major. Information on registering for a B.G.S. Information Session is available at http://www.txstate.edu/ucollege/bgs/bgs3/informationform.html.

Following the B.G.S. Information Session, students should complete and submit the B.G.S. Interest Form. Answers to the questions on the form describe personal goals and career aspirations and lists the minors the student is interested in pursuing. This information will be discussed with a B.G.S. faculty/staff member and is used to develop a plan for success in the B.G.S. program, including matching minors with the student’s personal and career goals. Some students may benefit from completion of GNST 3150, a course designed to help students examine their goals and interests, and match them to major and career options.

As with any major, it is important to check with a University College advisor on a regular basis to ensure that progress is being made in meeting B.G.S. program requirements. Students are reminded to take particular notice that minors used for the B.G.S. degree may have different course requirements due to the advanced number of hours required of the program, and that minors, which are controlled by the host department and not B.G.S. personnel, may change requirements or prerequisites from time to time.

The following B.G.S. policies are particularly important to note:
• In order to be advised for the B.G.S. program, register for GNST 3350 or GNST 4350, or enter the B.G.S. program, students must be in good academic standing at Texas State University. Those who are not in good academic standing and/or have questions about potential majors may make an appointment with University College Exploratory advisors.

• Only B.G.S. majors may register for GNST 3350 and GNST 4350 and both courses must be successfully completed at Texas State in order to be applied to the B.G.S. degree. (Under some circumstances, students with Honors minors may be allowed to substitute HON 4390B-Honors Thesis if the topic meets the requirements of GNST 4350.)

• Successful completion (C or higher) of GNST 3350 is required before taking GNST 4350. These courses may not be taken concurrently. Both courses are offered only during the Fall and Spring semesters are not available online.

• Certain minor combinations may not be allowed if the coursework or content is duplicative. A course may be counted toward more than one minor only if it is specifically required by those minors. Once minors are matched with the career choice, they may not be changed without consultation with and approval of B.G.S. faculty.

• Both GNST 3350 and GNST 4350 as well as all courses that are part of the three B.G.S. minors must be completed with a grade of C or higher. In addition to a minimum Texas State GPA of 2.0, graduation with a B.G.S. degree requires a GPA of 2.25 in each B.G.S. minor.

• Enrollment in GNST 3350 is required within two semesters of entering the B.G.S. major. Due to class size limits, enrollment, particularly in GNST 4350, is not guaranteed for a particular semester. Consultation with a B.G.S. advisor well in advance of registration is recommended.

Writing Intensive

Certain Texas State courses are designated as “writing intensive” and are labeled as (WI) in this catalog and the schedule of classes. In order to achieve this status, at least 65% of the course grade must be based on written assignments and a minimum of one extended piece of writing must be required. Academic colleges require a minimum of 9 credit hours of these courses for graduation. In addition to certain major and elective courses, the two History and two Philosophy courses included in the General Education Core Curriculum are writing intensive. These courses as well as other courses appropriate for writing intensive credit must be taken at Texas State.

Transfer Students

Students transferring from other institutions of higher education will have their transcripts initially evaluated by the Undergraduate Admissions Office to determine which courses will apply to Texas State requirements. Those seeking more specific evaluation of courses for fulfillment of general education core curriculum components may contact University College to initiate the process. Students should be prepared to provide documentation such as catalog descriptions, course syllabi and textbook information to facilitate verification of course content. Under the provisions of the Texas General Education Core Curriculum, Texas State must accept courses that fulfill the core curriculum at other Texas public institutions (indicated by a 3-digit code on the transcript), and may not accept other courses unless they are equivalent to the required Texas State course.

National Student Exchange

The National Student Exchange (NSE) is a University College program that offers Texas State students a unique opportunity to expand their educational horizons by enrolling at a participating university for one or two semesters while paying an in-state resident tuition rate. Students can benefit from the NSE program by accessing different courses, internships, career options, and exploring graduate schools at over 200 colleges and universities in the United States, U.S. territories (including Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and Canada.

Credits earned at these host institutions can be transferred back to Texas State, allowing students to maintain progress toward their academic objectives. For the privilege of NSE participation, Texas State students enjoy in-state tuition and fees at their host institution on Plan A payment status, or 15 hours of coursework at Texas State in-state rates on Plan B payment.

Applications for the NSE program are due in February for fall and spring exchanges. Requirements of the program include a 2.5 cumulative GPA, completed application and a $185 application fee. For more information about the National Student Exchange, contact University College or refer to the Texas State-NSE web site at www.txstate.edu/ucollege/programs/nse.html.

Bachelor of General Studies (B.G.S.)

• Major in General Studies (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/undergraduate/university-college/general-studies-bgs)

Information about graduate programs can be found in the Graduate Catalog (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate).

Courses in General Studies (GNST)

GNST 3150. Career and Major Exploration.
Students unsure about career choice will determine interests and abilities linked to appropriate careers and the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) or other majors. Varied group and individual projects will be guided by instructional teams from the PACE Center and/or Career Services. Required for some BGS major options. Prerequisite: Instructor permission about Career and Major Exploration

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 1 Lab Contact Hour.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Career and Major Exploration

GNST 3350. Interdisciplinary Preparation.
This course includes assignments designed to encourage self-analysis of career interests and planning, and selection of component minors for BGS majors. Students will develop a degree plan matched to their career interests and/or their initial proposal for the GNST 4350 project. Successful completion requires a grade of C or higher. Prerequisite: Declaration of the BGS major, Texas State GPA 2.0 or better, instructor permission.

about Interdisciplinary Preparation

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
about Interdisciplinary Preparation
GNST 4350. Interdisciplinary Project.
In this course students will complete an applied, interdisciplinary project incorporating all BGS component minors. The Project will consist of research, interviews, literature reviews, graphic support and other information gathering, presentation and analysis resulting in a written product targeted at the student's chosen area. Prerequisite: GNST 3350 with a grade of "C" or higher, Texas State GPA 2.0 or better, and instructor permission.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

about Interdisciplinary Project