General studies is a major designed for students who prefer a broader and more varied approach to learning than that of the traditional single-discipline major. It is a flexible degree program designed to meet the needs of a variety of students. The major is ideal for:

- Students seeking a strong foundation in general education, thereby preparing them to move on and pursue a graduate degree in fields that require no specific major or that encourage multi-disciplinary undergraduate study.
- Students wanting to develop marketable job skills and meet many employers’ basic requirement of holding a college degree.
- Students seeking retraining and upgrading of general knowledge to enhance personal and professional growth.

The curriculum is built on a foundation of general education and electives to develop depth in the background knowledge required for further study. Students majoring in general studies will receive hands-on experience through an internship, directed research, service-learning project and/or study abroad. Students will also have to complete a writing intensive capstone course related to their main area of study.

**Required Skills:**

- Leadership
- Problem Solving
- Creativity
- Communication (Written & Oral)
- Goal Setting
- Independence

**Possible Employers:**

- Business
- Industry
- Nonprofit Organization
- Government Agency
- Retail Store
- Education

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CAREERS IN GENERAL STUDIES AT:**

Career Services  
Occupational Information Network  
Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Education Portal  
WorldwideLearn
General Studies (BA) – Curriculum Guide

Student Name:       Advisor:

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

COMPETENCIES
(Minimum grade of C- required in all competencies)
☐ FS 0102 Freshman Seminar
   (if transferring in fewer than 18 credits)

Writing
☐ ENG 0101 English Composition I
☐ ENG 0102 English Composition II

Mathematics
☐* MATH 0098 College Algebra II or Higher

THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE
☐ Students are required to complete two courses designated
   as “Global”

☐ Students who enrolled prior to fall 2013 are required to
   complete ONE course designated as Non-Western

ARTS & LETTERS (ONE course MUST be literature; 
ONE course MUST be a creative, fine or performing Arts course)
☐ Literature
☐ Arts
☐ Literature, Arts, Language

BEHAVIORAL, ECONOMIC, & POLITICAL SCIENCES
(Two different categories must be represented)

HISTORY, CULTURES, & PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY
(ONE course MUST be History, and ONE course must be Cultures or 
   Philosophical Inquiry)
☐ HIST

PHYSICAL, LIFE, & COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES
(ONE course must be a Physical Science, ONE must be a Life Science 
and ONE must include a lab)
☐ Physical Science
☐ Life Science
☐ Physical, Life, or Computational Science
☐ Lab

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
☐ PEDC

*MATH 0098 does not meet the 
   mathematics competency
   at the Pittsburgh campus

REQUIRED MAJOR COURSES

The General Studies major consists of 72-73 credit hours
Students must choose 3 areas from the following categories:

Category I: Arts and Letters
(ENG, WRITNG, ART, MUSIC, THEA, LANGUAGES)

Category II: Behavioral, Economic, and Political Sciences
(PSY, SOC, ECON, PS, GEOG)

Category III: History, Cultures, and Philosophical Inquiry
(HIST, ANTH, PHIL)

Category IV: Physical, Life and Computational Sciences
(ASTRON, BIOL, CHEM, ENGR, ES, GEOL, PHYS, PET, MATH)

Category V: Professional Studies
(ACCT, ADMJ, CIST, COMM, EDUC, ENVSTD, FIN, HPRED, 
   HMGT, INTS, MIS, MILS, MGMT, MRKT, NUR, PR)

Five courses (15 credits) must be at the 1300 level or above.

AREA 1 (36 credit hours, 12 courses)

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

AREA 2 (18 credit hours, 6 courses)

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

AREA 3 (12 credit hours, 4 courses)

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ DIRECTED RESEARCH, INTERNSHIP, SERVICE 
LEARNING OR STUDY ABROAD

☐ REQUIRED MINOR

☐ CAPSTONE

According to your Degree Progress Report in MY.PITT.EDU upon successful completion of the 
current term:
You will have EARNED _______ credit hours
You NEED _______ for 120 credit hours required for graduation.
You will have earned _______ credit hours of Upper Level course work.
You NEED _______ for the 30 credit hours required for graduation.

NOTE: This guide is unofficial. Completing the requirements on this sheet does NOT guarantee degree 
completion. Official degree completion information can be found in MY.PITT.EDU. Contact your 
Faculty Advisor and/or the Registrar’s Office with questions or concerns.