

NON-CURRICULAR CHANGE TO CATALOG

APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: GPA Calculations Across Concentrations

College: Liberal Arts Department: Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Selfa A. Chew-Melendez, Program Director

I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.

Signature

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Selfa A. Chew-Melendez

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

Signature

Date

COLLEGE DEAN – Dr. Anadeli Bencomo

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

Signature

Date

NON-CURRICULAR CHANGE TO CATALOG

Date: 10/14/2025
From: Selfa A. Chew-Melendez, Director, Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies Program
College: College of Liberal Arts
To: Anadeli Bencomo, Dean, College of Liberal Arts SC
To: Selfa A. Chew-Melendez, Chair, Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee
Title: GPA Calculations Across Concentrations

Program and Section Name
Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies

Catalog page link
<https://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/college-of-liberal-arts/bachelor-of-multidisciplinary-studies/>

Is the change required/requested by an accrediting body?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Comments (if needed)

Currently, the policy requires that students earn a 2.0 GPA in *each* of their three concentrations. However, in practice, this creates complications for students who transfer coursework without GPA points, or for those whose overall academic record meets university standards but have one concentration slightly below the 2.0 threshold due to a single low grade.

UTEP's institutional policy requires a minimum 2.0 GPA. GPA is calculated comprehensively across the field of study—not subdivided by fields. This standard is consistent across the College of Liberal Arts and most degree programs. Since the BMS degree plan calculates GPA separately for each concentration, enforcing a per-concentration 2.0 requirement adds an extra condition not applied to other majors.

If a 2.0 combined GPA of all coursework is approved, it would ensure equity for transfer students and align the program with the general academic standards of the university, while maintaining the integrity and rigor expected of a multidisciplinary degree.

Copy and paste relevant sections of the catalog page below. Use track changes to indicate the requested updates.

BMS

updated 07.08.25

Degree Requirements

The Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies degree requires a minimum of 120 semester hours, including at least 39 hours at the advanced or upper-division (junior and senior) level. In addition to completing the 42 semester hour University Core Curriculum, each student defines, in consultation with a BMS advisor, three areas of concentration totaling 45 semester hours, including a minimum of 27 hours of advanced work. Each area of concentration is composed of 15 hours with 9-15 hours of advanced coursework. The goal of the concentration is to give students an interdisciplinary foundation that satisfies individual educational and professional goals while maintaining academic rigor and integrity. Thirty-three hours of electives in any combination of lower and upper-division hours bring the degree total to a minimum 120 semester hours, including a minimum of 39 hours of upper-division work.

Only 66 hours from a two-year institution or community college can apply toward the BMS. A foreign language is not required.

A 2.0 GPA is required for graduation.

Degree Plan

The BMS requires 120 total credits for completion with a minimum of 39 upper-division credit hours. If you are a transfer student, be sure to consult with an advisor concerning how many credits must be taken at UTEP for students to meet the 30-hour residency requirement to complete the degree. A 2.0 GPA is required for graduation.

The BMS degree plan consists of:

Area	Hours	
Core Curriculum	42	
Three Concentrations	15 Each	9-15 upper-division Hours in each
Electives	33	
<u>120 Total</u>		

Concentrations for the BMS degree are determined by the coursework already completed and/or areas of interest applicable to the BMS program.

Please be sure to consult the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog and speak with your academic advisor regarding institutional requirements.

Commented [CMSA1]: Deleted: "A 2.0 is required in each concentration"

Deleted: A 2.0 is required in each concentration.

BMS Online

Degree Requirements

The Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies degree requires a minimum of 120 semester hours, including at least 45 hours at the advanced or upper-division (junior and senior) level. In addition to completing the 42 semester hour University Core Curriculum, each student defines, in consultation with a BMS advisor, three areas of concentration totaling 45 semester hours, including a minimum of 27 hours of advanced work. Each area of concentration is composed of 15 hours, nine (9) hours of which must be advanced. The goal of the

updated 07.08.25

concentration is to give students an interdisciplinary foundation that satisfies individual educational and professional goals while maintaining academic rigor and integrity. Thirty-three hours of electives, 18 of which must be advanced, bring the degree total to a minimum 120 semester hours.

Only 66 hours from a two-year institution or community college can apply toward the BMS. A foreign language is not required. A student on the ESOL track who has completed ESOL 1311 AND 1312 are required to complete ESOL 2303.

A 2.0 GPA is required for graduation.

Degree Plan

The BMS requires 120 total credits for completion with a minimum of 45 upper-division credit hours. If you are a transfer student, be sure to consult with an advisor how many credits must be taken at UTEP as students meet the 30-hour residency requirement to complete the degree. A 2.0 GPA is required for graduation.

The BMS degree plan consists of:

Area	Hours	
Core Curriculum	42	
Three Concentrations	15 Each	9 upper-division Hours in each
Electives	33	18 upper-division hours
<u>120 Total</u>		

Concentration for the BMS degree are determined by the coursework already completed and/or areas of interest applicable to the BMS program.

Deleted: A 2.0 is required in each concentration.

Please be sure to consult the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog and Speak with your academic advisor for institutional requirements.

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Communication
Select One
COMM 1611 - Written & Oral Comm.
ESOL 1311 - Expos Engl Compos-Spkr ESL
ESOL 1312 - Res & Crit Writing Spkr ESL
RWS 1301 - Rhetoric & Composition I
RWS 1302 - Rhetoric & Composition II
RWS 1601 - Rhetoric, Composition, Comm.
See CAPP ENGL 1311
See CAPP ENGL 1312
Note:
American History
HIST 1301 - History of U.S. to 1865
HIST 1302 - History of U.S. since 1865
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Note:
Language, Philosophy, & Culture
Select One
AFST 2300 - Intro to African American Studies
CHIC 2302 - Latina/o Presence in the U.S.
ENGL 2311 - Eng Literature
ENGL 2312 - Eng Literature
ENGL 2313 - Intro to American Fiction
ENGL 2314 - Intro to American Fiction
ENGL 2318 - Intro to American Poetry
FREN 2322 - The Making of the "Other Americas"
HIST 2301 - World History to 1500
HIST 2302 - World History Since 1500
PHIL 1301 - Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 2306 - Ethics
RS 1301 - Intro to Religious Studies
SPAN 2340 - Seeing & Naming
WS 2300 - Intro to Women's Studies
WS 2350 - Global Feminism
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Note:
Government/Political Science
POLS 2310 - Intro to Politics
POLS 2311 - American Govt & Politics
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Note:
Social and Behavioral Sciences
Select One
ANTH 1301 - Intro to Physical Anthropology/Archeology
ANTH 1302 - Intro-Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 1310 - Cultural Geography
ANTH 2320 - Intro to Linguistics
ASIA 2300 - Asian American Studies
CE 2326 - Econ for Engrs & Scientists
CHIC 2311 - Intro to Chicano Studies
COMM 2350 - Interpersonal Comm.
COMM 2372 - Mass Media & Society
ECON 2303 - Principles of Economics
ECON 2304 - Principles of Economics
EDPC 1301 - Intro to Ed Psychology
EDU 1342 - Action Research in the Classroom
ENGL 2320 - Intro to Linguistics
GEOG 1310 - Cultural Geography
LING 2320 - An Intro to Linguistics
LING 2340 - Lang. Inside & Out: Sel Topics
PSYC 1301 - Intro to Psychology
SOCI 1301 - Intro to Sociology

Creative Arts
Select One
ART 1300 - Art Appreciation
ARTH 1305 - History of Art I
ARTH 1306 - History of Art II
DANC 1304 - Dance Appreciation
MUSL 1324 - Music Appreciation
MUSL 1327 - Jazz to Rock
MUSL 2321 - Intro to Music History
THEA 1313 - Intro to Theater
FILM 1390 - Intro Art of Motion Pict.
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Note:
Component Area Option
Select One
BUSN 1301 - Intro to Global Business
COMM 1301 - Public Speaking
COMM 1302 - Business/Profession Comm.
CS 1310 - Intro to Computer Programming
CS 1320 - Computer Programming Sci/Engr
EL 1301 - Eng Innovation & Leadership
ENGR 1302 - Engineering Design Experience
ENGR 1303 - Applied Engineering Analysis
LEAD 1300 - Introduction to Leadership
SCI 1301 - Inquiry in Math & Science
SPLP 1312 - Comm. Var. Across the Lifespan
UNIV 1301 - Seminar/Critical Inquiry
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Note:
Mathematics
Select One
MATH 1309 - College Algebra
MATH 1310 - Trigonometry and Conics
MATH 1319 - Math in the Modern World
MATH 1320 - Math for Social Sciences I
MATH 1411 - Calculus I
MATH 1508 - Precalculus 1,2
MATH 2301 - Math for Social Sciences II
STAT 1380 - Statistical Literacy
STAT 2480 - Elementary Statistical Methods
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Life and Physical Sciences
Select One
ASTR 1107 - Astronomy Lab I
ASTR 1307 - Elem Astronomy-Solar System
ASTR 1308 - Elem Astr Stars & Galaxies
BIOL 1103 - Introductory Biology Lab
BIOL 1104 - Human Biology Laboratory
BIOL 1107 - Topics in Study of Life I
BIOL 1108 - Organismal Biology Laboratory
BIOL 1203 - Introductory Biology
BIOL 1304 - Human Biology
BIOL 1305 - General Biology
BIOL 1306 - Organismal Biology
BIOL 2111 - Human Anat/Physio Lab I
BIOL 2113 - Human Anat/Physio Lab II
BIOL 2311 - Human Anat/Physiology I
BIOL 2313 - Human Anat/Physiology II
CHEM 1105 - Laboratory for CHEM 1305
CHEM 1106 - Laboratory for CHEM 1306
CHEM 1107 - Intro General Chemistry Lab
CHEM 1108 - Intro Organic & Biochem Lab
CHEM 1305 - General Chemistry
CHEM 1306 - General Chemistry