

## Proposal to Award Bachelors of General Studies Degrees from Undergraduate Studies

As currently configured, individual colleges award the Bachelors of General Studies (BGS) degree. The College of Nursing, however, does not award the degree, out of concern over its accreditation. The College of Business would prefer not to award the BGS degree for a similar reason. There has been concern, as well, voiced by some faculty in the College of Education over BGS graduates from their college entering the teaching profession without having first received appropriate credentials.

The proposal offered here is to allow the BGS degree to be offered through Undergraduate Studies. There are many examples of this degree being offered through Undergraduate Studies, even in the state of Florida. Undergraduate Studies at the University of South Florida has been awarding this degree for many years. The College of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Central Florida offers its new Bachelors of Integrative General Studies degree.

Individual FAU colleges may decide either to continue offering the BGS degree internally or to transfer conferral to Undergraduate Studies. They must choose one of the two options; they may not decide to award BGS degrees to some students and not others. Colleges should follow normal faculty governance procedures when making this decision (typically, starting with the college undergraduate programs committee, then moving on to the UUPC, UFS Steering, and Faculty Senate).

Below are some details concerning implementation and oversight of the degree.

1. **Degree Counts.** All BGS degree counts will accrue to the individual colleges, not to Undergraduate Studies. Degree counts will be determined by the student's BGS discipline.
2. **Advising.** Advising for the BGS will continue to take place within the individual colleges where the student's BGS discipline is housed.
3. **Degree Certification.** Degree certification will continue to take place within the individual colleges where the student's BGS discipline is housed.
4. **Assessment.** Assessment of the degree will take place within the individual colleges where the student's BGS discipline is housed.
5. **Oversight.** Faculty Senate will constitute a BGS Oversight Committee, with one representative from every college offering undergraduate degrees. The chair will be elected by the college representatives on the committee. The Dean of Undergraduate Studies will serve ex-officio, non-voting. The committee will meet twice yearly and provide a summary report to Faculty Senate at the end of the Spring semester. The committee will undertake the following activities:
  - a. **Certification of College Faculty Oversight of BGS Degree.** The BGS Oversight Committee will ask the colleges for information on how their faculty maintain oversight of the degree and how they ensure the integrity of their degrees.
  - b. **Review BGS Degree Coursework.** The committee will review coursework taken by BGS graduates to identify potential areas of concern and make recommendations as appropriate.
  - c. **Data Collection.** The committee will collect information on BGS degrees awarded (overall and by college), breakdown by FTIC and transfer students, employment data for BGS graduates, and historical trends.
  - d. **Recommendations.** The committee will recommend any changes to the BGS degree and submit those changes through the faculty governance process. The committee will also ascertain if there are roadblocks in particular majors that have led to a large

number of students graduating with a BGS degree and make the appropriate recommendations.