

General Studies

BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES (BGS) DEGREE

Why earn a Bachelor of General Studies?

UFV's Bachelor of General Studies is an interdisciplinary program designed for people who want an educational plan that suits their personal goals. The BGS advisor can help you can create a personalized program that is tailor-made to suit your individual needs.

.....

If you like the idea of taking charge of your own education, want to explore a wide variety of subjects, or are interested in delving into a particular subject more deeply than other programs allow for, a Bachelor of General Studies degree might be the program for you. Our BGS program is designed so that you can decide what you want your focus to be.

You can select courses from any discipline: adult education, agriculture, anthropology, aviation, art history, biology, business, chemistry, child and youth care, computing information systems, computer science, communication, criminology & criminal justice, early childhood education, economics, education, English, first nations, French, geography, graphic design, Halq'emeylem, history, horticulture, indo Canadian studies, Japanese, kinesiology and physical education, Latin American studies, library information, linguistics, Mandarin, mathematics & statistics, media and communications, music, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, Punjabi, religious studies, Russian, social work, social cultural and media studies, sociology, Spanish, teaching ESL, theatre, visual arts, and women's studies.



“Because the BGS allows students to link individual interests and abilities to career goals, it’s the perfect program for the self-directed learner. I love the empowerment it gives to students.”

— JIM ANDERSEN,
Former BGS curriculum
committee chair .

Bachelor of General Studies



“I had accumulated hundreds of credits through various programs but I had specific interests I wanted to pursue. It worked best for me to pick and choose courses from a variety of disciplines and apply them towards a Bachelor of General Studies degree, selecting ones that suited my interest in counselling adolescents.”

— LIANNE RADMORE, BGS graduate 2005..

WHY EARN A BGS AT UFV?

UFV's BGS is a degree program that is versatile, interdisciplinary, and flexible. It can be customized to suit your educational and career goals. This is not a prescribed, pre-packaged, program. It is a program designed by you, for you. While there are some courses that provide the framework for this degree, UFV's BGS gives you the opportunity to explore, and lets you decide which courses matter to you and your future.

You can develop a program to include entrance requirements for professional programs such as teacher education, physical therapy, library science, law, or even medicine. Perhaps you want to focus your studies in one or two disciplines, or you may even combine many disciplines to provide a broad and varied appreciation of the arts.

This program is for people who like to take charge of their own education and their future. We encourage you to explore your options and chart your own course.

WHAT SORT OF CAREER CAN I EXPECT WITH A BGS?

That's totally up to you. Graduates from our BGS program are now working in aviation, education, libraries, business, social services, administration, and many other fields. The BGS is customizable; it is not a one-size-fits-all program. This flexibility allows you to develop a program

geared to a particular career.

For example, of the 52 students who graduated in 2008, at least 12 were admitted to teacher education programs. Some continued in other professional programs and others into employment. Some graduates completed the degree part time, others studied full time.

Some graduates laddered existing certificates or diplomas into the degree to advance their employment options, others developed their degree to obtain skills for employment, or to meet admission requirements for professional programs such as dental hygiene, or library science.

If you plan to continue your studies in graduate school, please check the admission requirements for the graduate studies program you are interested in and incorporate the appropriate courses into your BGS degree.

WHAT CHOICES CAN I MAKE FOR MY GENERAL, MINORS, OR THEMATIC OPTIONS?

Because the BGS offers the individualized thematic option, there is no major. However, you do have the option of including one, two, or even three minors in your program. Minors are available from Arts, Science, Business, and Kinesiology. Or you can pick from 26 other arts, science, or business programs for your own minor.

The thematic option allows students to create a program of study from a variety of disciplines but with a common theme. Students might take courses such as Spanish, Latin American studies, geography, sociology, social work and anthropology, and while doing so, discover an interest in the languages and cultures of Latin America. In other words, there is a “theme” to the kinds of courses that interest them. Whenever students see that their interests integrate studies in more than one area, then it's possible to organize their BGS studies around that theme. Your proposed thematic option is reviewed by our BGS committee.

Once your thematic option is approved by UFV, the theme can formally be the focus of your studies.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET IN?

To enter the program, you must have 30 post-secondary credits, including three credits of English composition or other writing courses. You'll also need a minimum grade point average of 2.0 (C average). The post-secondary credits can be from any of the credit programs offered at public colleges, universities, university colleges, and institutes.

WILL THE 30 CREDITS OF STUDY COUNT TOWARD MY DEGREE?

Yes, the 30 credits will give you a head start. Not only are you fulfilling the admission criteria, you'll also have 30 credits that will apply to the requirements of the BGS program.

That means that if you are about to graduate from high school, you should apply to one of UFV's other programs with an eye to transferring into the BGS when you have met the admission requirements.

It also means that if you already have completed courses at a college, university college, technical institute, or university, you may be able to apply credit from those courses to the BGS program. This is referred to as "transfer credit."

If you have a trades qualification, credit for our designation may also count toward the degree requirements. You'll need to submit your trades qualifications and documents when you apply to the BGS program. Visit www.ufv.ca/Bachelor_of_General_Studies/Entrance_Requirements for a list of everything you'll need and how to start your application process.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GRADUATE FROM THE PROGRAM?

Although the BGS is one of UFV's most flexible programs, there are a few specific requirements that all students must complete. You will be eligible to graduate when you have successfully completed 120 credits with a 2.0 grade point average (C average). That's approximately 40 courses.

Breadth is the key to the BGS. You are encouraged to explore many different academic disciplines. Of the 120 credits you'll need for graduation, 33 credits must be from courses from six different areas. When you check out the BGS website, you'll see the range of choices you have. The other 87 credits can be in any area you want. It's your choice. For more information about the requirements for the program, go to www.ufv.ca/Bachelor_of_General_Studies.

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE FOUR-YEAR DEGREE. ARE THERE OTHER OPTIONS?

You can also earn a diploma in general studies, which like the Bachelor's degree in General Studies is tailor-made to suit your educational goals. To find out more about the diploma option, please contact Student Services to meet with an educational advisor, or go to www.ufv.ca/calendar and follow the links to the general studies diploma.

CAN I COMPLETE MY BGS ONLINE?

Yes, depending on what your areas of interest are. With careful planning, you may be able to complete all of the degree requirements in the online environment. Flexibility is the key. While there are many online courses offered by UFV and other post-secondary institutions, you may want a course that is offered only in a face-to-face format. Or you may want to combine both online and face-to-face courses for variety.

I'M INTERESTED. WHEN CAN I APPLY?

Applications are accepted for Fall, Winter, and Summer semesters. Early application is encouraged so the Admissions Office can process the application and provide you with information in a timely manner. You should refer to the program application dates on the Admissions and Records website at www.ufv.ca/ar for more details.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? CAN I AFFORD TO TAKE THIS PROGRAM?

It's best to consult the UFV calendar for tuition fees, keeping in mind that new fees are usually set each May. Remember that books and other fees are expenses on top of tuition costs.

You should also visit the UFV Financial Aid and Awards office, which facilitates the disbursement each year of about \$12 million in federal and provincial student loans, grants, bursaries, scholarships, and awards to UFV students.

CAN I GET ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE GAINED IN MY LIFE SO FAR?

Yes. UFV offers Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), a flexible assessment process that evaluates your experiential learning (what you already know and can do) for post-secondary credit. Experiential learning includes independent study, volunteer activities, non-credit courses, workplace learning, and military service. To find out more, check out the PLAR website at www.ufv.ca/plar or contact Susan Brown, Assessment Services Coordinator, PLAR at 604.851.6342 or susan.brown@ufv.ca.

SOUNDS GOOD. WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

Apply right away. There are no specific application deadlines for the BGS program, but you will want to start your application process at least one semester before you plan to begin taking classes.

Consult our online calendar at www.ufv.ca/calendar and find out all the application timelines. You can then download an application form and submit it, along with any required documents and the \$45 application fee, to the Admissions and Records office at any UFV campus or centre or transmit it through the internet at www.pas.bc.ca.

You can also visit www.ufv.ca/advising/prospective/enroll for a step-by-step process to becoming a UFV student. Find out more about applying to UFV at www.ufv.ca/ar/admissions/apply.

WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE IS THERE TO HELP ME ADJUST?

Please visit Student Services at www.ufv.ca/student-services to find out about the broad range of services designed to help you learn about and adjust to the university environment. Visit www.ufv.ca/advising for information about applying, registering, and getting connected to UFV.

CAN I SPEAK WITH SOMEONE ABOUT MY OPTIONS?

Absolutely. We want to hear from you! If you're unsure of your direction, contact Student Services at 1-888-504-7441 to arrange for career counselling. You should also visit our website at www.ufv.ca/Bachelor_of_General_Studies.

If you have any questions either email our BGS advisor or phone us at 1-888-504-7441 local 6333, or 604-851-6333. We'll be happy to help you.



The information contained in this document is subject to change. Please refer to www.ufv.ca/bachelor_of_general_studies for up-to-date information. UFV reserves the right to cancel courses and programs.



About UFV

Nestled in the beautiful Fraser Valley just east of Vancouver, in B.C., UFV is a fully accredited, public university that enrolls more than 11,000 students each year. UFV has campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission and regional centres in Hope and Agassiz, and a growing presence in Chandigarh, India.

UFV is committed to exceptional post-secondary instruction and a nurturing learning environment. We are large enough to offer variety, yet small enough to offer the personal attention that our students need to thrive. Our small class sizes and focus on teaching allow our students to get to know their instructors and learn in a hands-on setting.

We offer more than 80 programs, including 13 bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, and more than a dozen trades and technology programs. We believe that anyone who wants to go to university should be given the chance, so our admission policies are flexible, and we provide university prep courses and high school completion options. There are many options for learning: full-time, in class, online, as part of a structured program or one tailored specifically to your interests.

Many of our programs "ladder" into one another, allowing students to keep their options open. Our international programming makes for a culturally diverse student body and great opportunities to study abroad, while our continuing studies offerings make learning a lifelong experience.

UFV is recognized nationally for student success, an excellent learning environment, creative integration of programming, and our work with our local communities.

Get to know us better at www.ufv.ca.

