

# University College

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## DEAN

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## PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Advise TX - Ernest Villalpando, B.A.

Athletic Academic Center - Lauren M. Hindson, M.S.

CHAMPS Life Skills - John Anderson M.Ed.

General Studies - David Nelson, Ph.D.

PACE Advising Services - Angelica M. Barrera, M.S.

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PACE Mentoring Services - Michael E. Nava, Ph.D.

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University College Advising Center - Amelia I. Beck, M.A.

University Seminar - Pam Wuestenberg, Ph.D.

## DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED:

Bachelor of General Studies (BGS), major in General Studies

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The objective of the BGS 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 BGS 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 BGS 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 BGS minors, the final BGS 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). BGS faculty/staff will provide information regarding the requirements and criteria needed to successfully enter and complete the major. Information on registering for a BGS Information Session is available at <http://www.txstate.edu/ucollege/bgs/bgs3/informationform.html>.

Following the BGS Information Session, interested students may fill out a BGS Interest Form that will ask them to answer five questions about goals and career aspirations. That and a personal interview with a BGS faculty/staff member will help determine what minors best match the career goal. Even with the large number of minors available at Texas State, some students' interests may occasionally not mesh well with academic resources and the BGS may not be an appropriate choice. In those cases, GNST 3150, a twice-a-semester course allowing students to examine their goals and talents, and to match them with careers as well as traditional Texas State degree programs may be recommended.

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 BGS program requirements. Students are reminded to take particular notice that minors used for the BGS degree may have different course requirements due to the advanced hours requirement of the program, and that minors, which are controlled by the host department and not BGS personnel, may change requirements or prerequisites from time to time.

The following BGS policies are particularly important to note:

- In order to be advised for the BGS program, register for GNST 3350 or 4350, or enter the BGS 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 BGS 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 BGS 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 BGS faculty.
- Both GNST 3350 and GNST 4350 as well as all courses that are part of the three BGS 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 BGS degree requires a GPA of 2.25 in each BGS minor.
- Enrollment in GNST 3350 is required within two semesters of entering the BGS major. Due to class size limits, enrollment, particularly in GNST 4350, is not guaranteed for a particular semester. Consultation with a BGS advisor well in advance of registration is recommended.

Bachelor of General Studies (BSG) Major in General Studies Minimum required: 120 semester hours							
General Requirements: 1. A minimum of 9 writing intensive hours and a total of 36 advanced hours are required to graduate. An advanced course is one that is numbered above 3000 and below 5000. 2. If two years of the same foreign language were taken in high school, then enough additional hours to total the minimum 120 hours required for the degree will fulfill this requirement. In the absence of such high school language, two semesters of the same foreign language must be taken at the college level.							
Freshman Year		Sophomore Year		Junior Year		Senior Year	
Course	Hr	Course	Hr	Course	Hr	Course	Hr
COMM 1310	3	ENG Literature	3	GNST 1150	1	GNST 4350	3
Social Science Component	3	HIST 1320	3	Electives	10	Electives	6
MATH Component	3-4	POSI 2320	3	Minor	18	Minor	21
ENG 1310, 1320	6	Natural Science Component	7-8				
US 1100	1	Minor	15				
POSI 2310	3						
HIST 1310	3						
PFW two courses	2						
PHIL1305 or 1320	3						
ART, DAN, MU or TH 2313	3						
<b>Total</b>	<b>30-31</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>31-32</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

## Courses in General Studies (GNST)

3150 Career and Major Exploration. (1-1) 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.

3350 Interdisciplinary Preparation. (3.0) 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.

4350 Interdisciplinary Project. (3.0) 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. Successful completion requires a grade of C or higher. Prerequisite: Required Texas State GPA 2.0 or better, successful completion of GNST 3350, instructor permission.

### 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.

### ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER

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, an 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.

### 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](http://www.txstate.edu/ucollege/programs/nse.html).

## University Seminar

Undergraduate Academic Center, First Floor  
T: 512.245.7952 F: 512.245.7908  
[www.txstate.edu/ucollege/universityseminar](http://www.txstate.edu/ucollege/universityseminar)

University Seminar (US 1100) helps incoming freshmen transition to college life and should be taken during the students first semester at Texas State. Its small class setting allows students to get to know each other as well as their instructor. Classes meet once a week for 16 weeks during the fall semester.

University Seminar gets new students involved in the university community and supports PACE initiatives through related instruction, activities and guidance. Class assignments may include attending a university event such as a play or a keynote speech and writing a short report about the experience. Through US 1100 career assessment projects, students learn about individual career interests, find organizations and activities related to their academic fields, and develop a plan that will lead to graduation and professional success.

Taught by a diverse faculty, instructors of the course include professors, staff members, and administrators from departments across the Texas State campus. All instructors have at least a master's degree and lend their unique and varied perspectives to enrich each classroom. Distinct sections of the course may serve freshmen with common interests. These are labeled in the Schedule of Classes.

### Course in University Seminar (US)

1100 University Seminar. (1-0) University Seminar is an introduction to the nature and aims of university education, with special emphasis on the value of broad learning. (MC/MP)

## Texas Success Initiative Program

Undergraduate Academic Center, First Floor  
T: 512.245.3942 F: 512.245.7648  
[www.txstate.edu/tsip](http://www.txstate.edu/tsip)

The Texas Success Initiative Program (TSIP) is a statewide initiative created to improve student success in college-level coursework. As part of the program, all students enrolled in Texas public colleges or universities complete required assessments to determine math, reading, and writing proficiency. Developmental

course instruction is provided to students needing to strengthen their basic academic skills. More information about this program, assessment requirements, and exemptions can be found in the Academic Policies section of the catalog under Texas Legislative Requirements.

## Athletic Academic Center

Harris Underground  
T: 512.245.2978 F: 512.245.1736  
[www.txstatebobcats.collegesports.com/academic/txst-academics.html](http://www.txstatebobcats.collegesports.com/academic/txst-academics.html)

The Athletic Academic Center (AAC), located on the lower level of Harris Dining Hall, provides services and resources that aid student-athletes in maintaining excellence both in the classroom and on the playing field. The AAC staff strives to ensure the fulfillment of all five components of the program: Academic Excellence, Athletic Excellence, Community Service, Career Development, and Personal Development.

The AAC, open six days a week, houses a computer lab, a learning lab, individual tutoring rooms, areas for both individual and group study, and offices for the AAC staff. The ACC is staffed by an **assistant dean** and director, a **CHAMPS Life Skills director**, an associate director, two student development specialists, an **administrative assistant** and a graduate student who serve as liaisons between the Athletic Department, college academic advising centers and academic departments, and the administrative units of the University. In coordination with the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, the AAC staff also monitors academic eligibility and ensures that all athletes are maintaining satisfactory progress toward their degrees.