



General Studies [AGS] [GSTG]

Cycles included in this report:

Jun 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025

Program Name: General Studies [AGS] [GSTG]

Reporting Cycle: Jun 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025

1 Is this program offered via Distance Learning?

2 Is this program offered at an off-site location?

Yes

2.1 If yes to previous, provide addresses for each location where 50% or more of program credits may be earned.

McNeese has five off-campus instructional sites at which the institution offers 25%-49% of its credit hours toward an associate’s degree.

Name of Site	Physical Address	Date of SACSCOC letter accepting notification	Date Implemented by the institution	Educational programs offered (specific degrees, certificates, diplomas) with 25-49% credit hours offered at each site	Is the site currently active? (At any time during the past 5 years, have students been enrolled and courses offered? If not, indicate the date of most recent activity.)
East Beauregard High School	5364 Hwy 113 DeRidder, LA 70634	11/16/2016	August 2017	Associate of General Studies	Yes
South Beauregard High School	151 Longville Church Rd Longville, LA 70652	11/16/2016	August 2017	Associate of General Studies	Yes
Bell City High School	7161 LA Hwy 14 Bell City, LA 70630	11/16/2016	August 2017	Associate of General Studies	Yes
Sulphur High School	100 Sycamore St Sulphur, LA 70663	11/16/2016	August 2017	Associate of General Studies	Yes
Vinton High School	1603 Penny Dr Vinton, LA 70668	11/16/2016	August 2017	Associate of General Studies	Yes

3 Example of Program Improvement

2020-2021:

Students were to complete an exit essay assignment that will be graded using separate rubrics for each of the three student learning outcomes. These were not mandatory, so it had low participation

2021-2022:

Students were to complete an exit essay assignment that will be graded using separate rubrics for each of the three student learning outcomes. These were not mandatory, so it had low participation.

2022-2023:

Students were to complete an exit essay assignment that will be graded using separate rubrics for each of the three student learning outcomes. These were not mandatory, so it had low participation.

2023-2024:

This degree has not been heavily advertised. However, the degree plan was changed for the associate of general studies to match the Board of Regents matrix. One math and two English courses so we hope to grab more completers who have credit with no degree. We look forward to advertising this program and hope increase completers due to this change. This was the first year that this option was available to students, so not many of our current AGS students knew about or had time to utilize this change. We will have to track graduation stats for a few years in order to determine if this has an impact.

2024-2025:

Analysis of essays written by AGS graduates indicates that students met expectations for critical thinking and exhibited strong writing skills.

4 Program Highlights from the Reporting Year

2020-2021:

These are the numbers according to reports and they are less than prior years due to Covid-19 pandemic and hurricanes. We are working on boosting enrollment and getting the graduation rate up. This is also a completer degree so we may need to assess the way we do the data.

2021-2022:

These are the numbers according to reports and they are less than prior years due to Covid-19 pandemic and hurricanes. We are working on boosting enrollment and getting the graduation rate up. This is also a completer degree so we may need to assess the way we do the data.

2022-2023:**2023-2024:**

This degree has not been heavily advertised. However, the degree plan was changed for the associate of general studies to match the Board of Regents matrix. Revised General Education requirements to be less prescriptive. We look forward to advertising this program and hope increase completers due to this change. This was the first year that this option was available to students, so not many of our current AGS students knew about or had time to utilize this change. We will have to track graduation stats for a few years in order to determine if this has an impact.

2024-2025:

The AGS program awarded degrees to 81 graduates during this academic year, representing a notable increase from the 51 graduates in the 2023–2024 academic year; this growth is believed to be partially attributable to several key program improvements implemented during the assessment cycle to support student progression and completion. We anticipate continued growth in completers as these changes become more widely known, with graduation data to be monitored over the next several academic years to assess the sustained impact of these improvements.

5 Program Mission

The Associate of General Studies was created to provide non-traditional and traditional students a path to education credentials by giving them the freedom to create an interdisciplinary degree based on their needs and interests. This degree, because of its flexibility, aids the University efforts in the retention of current students and the recruitment of first time, former and transfer students.

6 Institutional Mission Reference

The Department of Interdisciplinary Studies offers programs leading to the Associate of Interdisciplinary Studies(AIS) and Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies(BIS) degrees for students who have a broad range of interests and are seeking a diverse curriculum. Interdisciplinary studies degree programs allow students to explore their interests while simultaneously preparing them for a variety of careers. Furthermore, the interdisciplinary studies programs allow students to combine the credits they may have accumulated as a result of changing their curriculum while searching for their best educational plan. The general studies programs also serve as a stepping stone for students wishing to further their education at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The interdisciplinary studies degree programs have a significant population of students consisting of local traditional students, student-athletes, and non-traditional adult students. The traditional and non-traditional student population demands flexible college courses. The general studies programs are available part-time, full-time, on-campus, online, or in hybrid formats. Daytime, weekend, and accelerated online courses allow education to fit seamlessly into our students' busy lives. Consistent with the mission of McNeese State University, the general studies degree programs focus on the educational and economic needs of Southwest Louisiana. We change the lives of students through a mix of research, instruction, and student life activities, with a focus on student learning and mentoring.

7 Assessment and Benchmark

Assessment: Exit essay to all AGS graduates to assess critical thinking, communication, and integrative learning.

7.1 Data

We do not currently have a benchmark or data. We hope to establish a benchmark after collecting several semesters of results.

2021-2022:

Completers: 64

2022-2023:

Completers: 58

2023-2024:

Prospective graduate for the AGS are added to a Moodle course and assigned a exit essay. Since this is not a pass fail course these essays were not mandatory, so it had low participation. Only 4 students participated.

Completers: 49

2024-2025:

Completers: 84

54 prospective graduate for the AGS are added to a Moodle course and assigned a exit essay. 19 of those participated in the assigned exit essay.

7.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2020-2021:

We are working on boosting enrollment and getting the graduation rate up. This is also a completer degree so we may need to adjust the way we assess the data.

2021-2022:

We are working on boosting enrollment and getting the graduation rate up. This is also a completer degree so we may need to adjust the way we assess the data.

2022-2023:

The AGS degree was discussed in a Liberal Arts Department Head meeting in hopes to catch students that may want to graduate with an Associate degree instead of stopping out. I hope to spread awareness to other colleges.

2023-2024:

This degree has not been heavily advertised around campus. We hope to get more participants for the associate degree who want to add a concurrent degree with their bachelor's degree or complete a degree with credit earned.

2024-2025:

To ensure that the AGS degree is meeting expectations an AGS capstone course will be created.