



General Studies [BGS] [GNST]

Cycles included in this report:

Jun 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025

Program Name: General Studies [BGS] [GNST]**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?**

No

2.1 If yes to previous, provide addresses for each location where 50% or more of program credits may be earned.**3 Example of Program Improvement****2020-2021:**

Due to Covid-19 pandemic and hurricanes not many adjustments were able to be made. 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:

Due to Covid-19 pandemic and hurricanes not many adjustments were able to be made. 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:**

Revised General Education requirements to be less prescriptive. Changed Capstone course from one credit to three credits.

2024-2025:

Changing the Capstone course from 1 credit to 3 credits has encouraged students to put in more effort into the assignments.

4 Program Highlights from the Reporting Year

2020-2021:

Again, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and hurricanes, no changes to the program were made. Also, there was still a hiring freeze put into place, so we were unable to add an advisor to assist the department head.

2021-2022:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and hurricanes, no changes to the program were made. Also, there was still a hiring freeze put into place so we were unable to add an advisor to assist the department head. 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:

The Department of Interdisciplinary Studies has hired an Administrative Graduate Assistant to provide clerical support, reception services, appointment scheduling, assist students by determining who can best provide information needed within the University, provide basic assistance to students with questions about advising, registration, etc. This should help with the effectiveness and speed of our work.

Working with IRE to rewrite and update the Graduating Senior Exit Survey- changing gears to a satisfaction survey.

2024-2025:

The Administrative Graduate Assistant has been working well in assisting with initial degree plan evaluations which is helping to speed up onboarding new students coming into the department. We have changed the Exit Survey to include job placement and salary for 2026-2027.

5 Program Mission

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.

6 Institutional Mission Reference

The mission of the University is to "change lives." The BGS degree allows students who have credits from pursuing other degrees to easily move them into this program and complete a four-year degree. The vast majority of students who finish the BGS come from other programs or transfer in from other schools. It fills the niche for so many students who would otherwise drop out of college without completing their degree. Having the flexibility to complete the degree through on-campus or online formats, we literally change lives every semester. We also maintain all the academic standards of the University, BOR, and UL System to assure that the AGS and BGS degrees meet the same academic rigor as our other degree programs.

Interdisciplinary Studies Rationale

It is reasonable for institutions of higher learning, such as McNeese State University to reorganize themselves around new structures that best support students. The primary goal of the reorganization of what is now the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies within the College of Liberal Arts is to provide an opportunity for undergraduate students to learn and work in an interdisciplinary environment and to gain real-world experience through internships and a capstone experience in professionalism.

7 Assessment and Benchmark GNST 400 Ethical Workplace Scenario

Assessment: GNST 400 Ethical Workplace Scenario.

Benchmark: 90% of students will earn a score of 90% or better on this assignment.

Prior to 2014-2015, the benchmark was for 90% of students to earn 67.5% or better.

Files:

Critical Thinking Rubric

7.1 Data

Ethical Workplace Scenario: Traditional Program

Academic Year	Students earning 90% or higher		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
2020-2021	68/71	95%	Yes
2021-2022	61/72	84%	No
2022-2023	—	—	—
2023-2024	63/70	90%	Yes
2024-2025	72/74	97%	Yes

Ethical Workplace Scenario: Online Program

Academic Year	Students earning 90% or higher		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
2020-2021	42/45	93%	Yes
2021-2022	39/40	97%	Yes
2022-2023	—	—	—
2023-2024	44/47	93%	Yes
2024-2025	57/58	98%	Yes

7.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2020-2021:

These are the numbers according to reports and they are more than prior years.

2021-2022:

These are the numbers according to reports and they are more than prior years.

2022-2023:

N/A

2023-2024:

Benchmark met.

2024-2025:

Benchmark met

8 Assessment and Benchmark GNST 400 Cover Letter and Resume

Assessment: One page cover letter and résumé to a prospective employer.

Benchmark: 75% of students will earn a score of 90% or higher on this assignment.

Prior to 2016-2017, the benchmark was 85% of students earning 90% or higher on this assignment.

Files:

Learning Outcome Writing Enriched rubric 2012

8.1 Data

Cover Letter and Resume: Traditional Program

Academic Year	Students earning 90% or higher		Mean	Median	Mode	Benchmark met?
	#	%				
2020-2021	64/71	90%				Yes
2021-2022	67/72	93%				Yes
2022-2023	—	—	—	—	—	—
2023-2024	65/70	93%				Yes
2024-2025	72/74	97%				Yes

Cover Letter and Resume: Online Program

Academic Year	Students earning 90% or higher		Mean	Median	Mode	Benchmark met?
	#	%				
2020-2021	44/45	98%	—	—	—	Yes
2021-2022	40/40	100%	—	—	—	Yes
2022-2023	—	—	—	—	—	—
2023-2024	47/47	100%				Yes
2024-2025	56/58	96%				Yes

8.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2020-2021:

These are the numbers according to reports and they are more than prior years.

2021-2022:

These are the numbers according to reports and they are more than prior years.

2022-2023:

N/A

2023-2024:

Benchmark met. Planning to have cover letter and resume workshops in the future to help the students.

2024-2025:

Benchmark met. Conducted a Career Readiness Workshop with the Career and Professional Development Services and the Literacy Council of SWLA in February- 6 attended.

9 Assessment and Benchmark GNST 400 Final Reflective Essay

Assessment: GNST 400 Final Reflective Essay.

Benchmark: Students will earn an overall average score of 95% or better on this essay.

Files:

GNST 400 Final Essay Rubric

9.1 Data

Final Reflective Essay: Traditional Program

Academic Year	Students earning 95% or higher		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
2020-2021	70/71	100%	Yes
2021-2022	68/72	94%	Yes
2022-2023	—	—	—
2023-2024	69/70	98%	Yes
2024-2025	72/74	97%	Yes

Final Reflective Essay: Online Program

Academic Year	Students earning 95% or higher		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
2020-2021	45/45	100%	Yes
2021-2022	39/40	98%	Yes
2022-2023	—	—	—
2023-2024	47/47	100%	Yes
2024-2025	58/58	100%	Yes

9.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2020-2021:

These are the numbers according to reports and they are more than prior years

2021-2022:

These are the numbers according to reports and they are more than prior years.

2022-2023:

N/A

2023-2024:

Benchmark met.

2024-2025:

Benchmark met.