

General Studies [AGS] [GSTG]

Cycles included in this report:

Jun 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019

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Program Name: General Studies [AGS] [GSTG]**Reporting Cycle: Jun 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019****1 Is this program offered via Distance Learning?**

100% Distance and Traditional

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**

The assessment of this program's student learning outcomes has been revised to comply with best practices, including creating a new assignment to assess student learning instead of relying on end-of-term course grades. Students will complete an exit essay assignment that will be graded using separate rubrics for each of the 3 student learning outcomes.

We have noticed through the years that the two courses that many of our students struggle to complete are College Algebra and an additional math course. The General Education core recently changed to now include PHIL 102 and MATH 105 to the list of approved Math/Analytical Reasoning courses. We changed the AGS degree to accept any of the six hours of General Education Math /Analytical reasoning courses. We will continue to monitor which courses our students take along with graduation rates to determine if this decision was beneficial to our students.

4 Program Highlights from the Reporting Year

The general education core curriculum recently was revised to allow students to take PHIL 102 Critical Thinking for their Math/Analytical Reasoning requirement. We look forward to increasing 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 class. We will have to track graduation stats for a few years in order to determine if this has an impact.

In spring 2019 the Department Head for Interdisciplinary Studies and the Director of Electronic Learning began an intense effort to identify and contact students who had earned the courses and total hours to have completed the AGS degree, while working on another degree, and who are no longer enrolled at the university. Approximately 250 students were contacted and offered the AGS degree and 34 students responded and were awarded the AGS in summer 2019. More are responding and will be awarded the degree in Fall 2019.

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 mission of the University is to "change lives". Through the AGS program, we offer students who have attained 60 credit hours along with some required General Education courses the ability to utilize that credit and obtain their associates degree. These students are generally trying to obtain another degree but for some reason are unable to finish it. The AGS allows the student to walk away with something to show for their hard work and investment and can literally change their life. 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.

7 Assessment and Benchmark Exit Essay

In 2017-18, the department will administer an exit essay to all AGS graduates to assess critical thinking, communication, and integrative learning.

Outcome Links

Communication [Program]

Graduates formulate and express ideas effectively through written and/or technological communication skills.

Critical Thinking [Program]

Graduates solve problems using critical thinking skills.

Integrative Learning [Program]

Students will make connections among ideas and experiences to new situations within and beyond the campus.

7.1 Data

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

7.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

No analysis at this time.

End of report