



**KENTUCKY STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

## **CHAPTER 8 -- ACADEMIC DEGREES AND GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Academic Degrees**

Kentucky State University serves many ends and many needs, but the true test of an institution's quality is whether its graduates have learned to think for themselves. Every baccalaureate degree program at the University is designed to provide students with a sound liberal studies education and the more specialized skills derived from disciplined study of individual subject matter. Together, the University's Liberal Studies Requirements and specific academic degree requirements provide students with an exceptional comprehensive education so they may excel in their chosen endeavors.

### **Degree Definitions**

The following definitions are to be considered University norms for evaluation and approval of doctoral, master's, baccalaureate, and associate degree programs. The definitions and the limitations that accompany them are based upon the University's policy of emphasizing breadth of study in the basic disciplines with emphasis on the liberal arts in fulfillment of Kentucky State University's mission. Course content shall be appropriate for university-level courses. Departures from these norms must be justified by the nature of the program and must have the recommendation of the Faculty Senate and approval of the Board of Regents.

#### **Graduate Degrees – See the separate Graduate Catalog for details Baccalaureate Degree Programs**

A baccalaureate degree program is a planned and approved program of study leading to graduation with a baccalaureate degree. It should be possible to complete a baccalaureate degree program in eight semesters of normal full-time study. The minimum semester credit hour requirement shall be 120, and no program should require more than 144 semester credit hours. A student may elect to exceed this maximum in meeting personal education objectives.

Each baccalaureate degree program shall include the Liberal Studies (General Education), Requirements of the University (unless specific courses have been officially substituted or waived) and a major. Minors, tracks, pre-major, prerequisites, and support courses may be required. Individual students may elect to take a minor or a second major to meet personal education objectives. Unless otherwise specified, any course taken to satisfy a requirement (including electives) for one program may be used to satisfy a requirement for another program. A minimum of 42 semester credit hours in upper-level courses is required for graduation.

### **Baccalaureate Degree Programs Associate Degree Programs**

An associate degree program is a planned and approved program of study leading to graduation with an associate degree. It is possible to complete an associate degree program in four semesters of normal fulltime study. The minimum semester credit hour requirement shall be 60, and no program should require more than 76 semester credit hours. A student may elect to exceed this maximum in meeting personal education objectives.

Each associate degree program, except the Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies, shall include required major courses, support courses, and at least 15 semester credit hours of the Liberal Studies Requirements of the University. The liberal studies component shall include courses designed to develop skills in oral and written communication and in computational skills. The liberal studies component shall also include courses drawn from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural sciences/mathematics.

### **Associate Degree Programs Certificate Programs**

A certificate program includes a minimum of twelve credit hours, not to exceed a year's worth of course work.

### **Certificate Programs The Major**

A major consists of a planned sequence of courses usually within a single discipline; however, a major may consist of a planned group of courses from more than one discipline. The major must constitute at least 25% of the hours required for a baccalaureate degree, which is at least 30 semester credit hours of a 120-hour degree program. At least 18 semester credit hours in the major must be upper-level courses. A student must declare a major either by the end of the sophomore year or the successful completion of 60 semester credit hours before he/she will be permitted to register for classes the semester immediately following.

### **The Minor**

A minor consists of a planned sequence of courses in a discipline. The minor shall consist of a minimum of 18 semester credit hours and shall not exceed 21 semester credit hours. A minimum of 12 semester credit hours in the minor shall be above the 100 level.

### **Minors Tracks - the area of specialization**

Some major programs consist of a core program of study within the academic unit as well as required additional study in one or more tracks selected from options within or related to the discipline. These tracks shall consist of a minimum of 12 semester credit hours and a maximum of 18 semester credit hours.

### **Pre-majors, Prerequisites, and Support Courses**

A degree program may identify and require courses as are justified for proper completion of the major. Courses may be from within the discipline (pre-majors or prerequisites) or from other disciplines (prerequisites or support courses). Such credits thus required are not included in the requirements for the major, the minor and the specialization as stated previously, but are included in the requirements for the total number of semester credit hours for an associate or baccalaureate degree.

## Free Electives

Free electives may be selected by the student from any courses not required in the particular degree program, excluding non-credit course offerings. Free electives may be used to meet hourly requirements for graduation not specified in those sections of the Catalog pertaining to the General Education/Liberal Studies Requirements of the student's major or minor.

## Liberal Studies Requirements (General Education Common Core)

Kentucky State University is the Commonwealth's unique public liberal studies institution. Liberal studies comprise the traditional subjects of the natural sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities. Included are courses in mathematics, poetry, history, politics, literature, languages, fine arts, philosophy, psychology, biology, chemistry, and economics, among others.

A liberal studies foundation prepares students to think clearly, to argue persuasively, to write with clarity and liveliness, and to gain both a cultural and historical perspective on the human experience as well as an in-depth knowledge in at least one area of human thought. Liberal studies spark curiosity and broaden vision. Liberal studies education provides the tools by which people come to understand the world, one another, and themselves. The Liberal Studies Requirements are distributed across programs in the College of Humanities, Business, and Society. Each student who enters Kentucky State University with the intention to earn a baccalaureate degree must satisfy the Liberal Studies Requirements. Liberal studies courses serve as a foundation for many other courses. In addition to the requirements of the student's major field of study, Liberal Studies Requirements constitute a carefully designed program of courses to be selected from the various academic offerings of the University. A number of choices are included in these general requirements and students are encouraged to consider carefully the alternatives available to them.

## Expected Student Learning Outcomes

In order to make the goals of liberal studies at Kentucky State University clear and specific, the faculty has adopted a set of four liberal arts learning outcomes. After completing the general education requirements at Kentucky State University, students will be expected to demonstrate:

### Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical World

Through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts, the KSU student will engage with big questions, both contemporary and enduring, through study of core texts and primary source material.

### Intellectual and Practical Skills

The KSU student will develop multiple literacies and skills, including reading comprehension, inquiry and analysis, critical and creative thinking, written and oral communication, quantitative literacy, information literacy, technological literacy, and teamwork and problem solving. The KSU student will practice these skills extensively, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, project, and standards for performance. The student will judge reasonably the validity of information gained through the research process, including use of digital resources.

## Personal and Social Responsibility

The KSU student will obtain including civic knowledge and readiness for engagement—locally and globally—and become actively involved with diverse communities and real-world challenges.

## Integrative and Applied Learning

The KSU student will be able to perform cross-disciplinary synthesis and advance thought across general and specialized studies. The KSU student will demonstrate this learning through the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to new settings and complex problems across disciplines.

## Liberal Studies/General Education Required Courses

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Communication</b>		
Written and Oral		
ENG 101	English Comp I	4
ENG 102	English Comp II	3
COM 103	Interpersonal Communication	3
<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b>		
Select one of the following: <sup>1</sup>		3
MAT 111	Acceler. Contemp. Mathematics	
MAT 115	College Algebra	
MAT 115A	Accelerated College Algebra	
MAT 200	Intro to Stat Reasoning & Ana.	
MAT 120	Precalculus	
MAT 131	Calculus/Analy Geom I	
<b>Natural Sciences</b>		
Select one of the following: <sup>1</sup>		3-4
BIO 101	Life Science	
CHE 109	Chemistry in Context	
BIO 111	Principles of Biology	
CHE 101 & CHE 110	General Chemistry I and General Chem I Laboratory	
PHS 201	Physical Sciences I	
PHS 202	Physical Sci II	
PHY 211	General Physics I	
<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences</b>		
Select two of the following from different disciplines:		6
POS 101	American Government	
FIN 101	Financial Literacy	
HIS 108 or HIS 103	Intro to African American Hist Western Civilization	
ECO 200 or ECO 201	Survey of Economics Prin of Economics I	
PSY 200	General Psychology	
SOC 203	Principles of Sociology	
<b>Arts &amp; Humanities</b>		
Select Foreign Language or Humanities Options		9
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>31-32</b>

<sup>1</sup> Courses specific to major

### Foreign Language Option

Code	Title	Hours
Select one of the following from Arts Block:		3
ART 130	Introduction to Art	
MUS 130	Introduction to Music	
THE 130	Introduction to Theatre	
ENG 211	Intro to Literature	
Select Foreign Language Block		
Foreign Language I		3
Foreign Language II		3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>9</b>

### Humanities Option

Code	Title	Hours
Select one of the following from Arts Block:		3
ART 130	Introduction to Art	
MUS 130	Introduction to Music	
THE 130	Introduction to Theatre	
ENG 211	Intro to Literature	
Select one of the following from Humanities I:		3
ASP 101	Black Experience in America	
EDU 204	Cultural Responsiveness	
IGS 200	Foundations of Culture	
IGS 201	Global Cultural Traditions	
IGS 300	The Modern & Post-Modern World	
Select one of the following from Humanities II:		3
ASP 302	Readings Black Women's Hist	
ASP 303	American Civil Rights Movement	
ASP 305	Africana Intellectual Thought	
ASP 306	Economic Dev in the Diaspora	
BUA 370	Global Business Issues	
COS 303	Human Perspective on Computing	
ENG 313	Non-Western Literature	
MUS/AAS 323	African-American Music	
IGS 301		
IGS 302		
IGS 303		
IGS 304	African-Amer Experience	
IGS 305	The Latino Experience	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>9</b>

Please note that certain majors and/or programs may require a student to complete specific courses within any category.

### University Requirements

KSU 118 Intro. to University Learning is a three-credit hour university orientation class. Students who have transferred more than 30 hours from another institution are exempted from taking any university orientation class. Students enrolled in the honors core are required to take HON 103 University Orientation-Honors in lieu of KSU 118 Intro. to University Learning. Students enrolled in the music program are required to take MUS 103 Freshman Orientation in Music in lieu of KSU 118 Intro. to University Learning.

KSU 186 Navigate. the Tech. World- Navigating the Tech World is a three-credit hour university class.

### Testing Services

General Education Assessment—required of all university students seeking a baccalaureate degree. Assessment is scheduled after the student has earned 60 semester hours. This is a comprehensive exam required of all students to assess general education competency.

### Cooperative Education Program

Cooperative education at Kentucky State University is an academic program incorporating alternating and parallel periods of employment and classroom study. This educational process is a joint or cooperative effort on the part of the Cooperative Education Office, the faculty instructing the student, and the employer furnishing opportunities for practical applications of the student's class work. Students are limited to a maximum of twelve hours in cooperative education courses for their academic career at KSU.

Cooperative education helps the student bridge the gap between the classroom and the workplace, and it allows the student to observe and participate in practical applications of coursework. Cooperative education enables students to be more valuable contributors upon returning to the classroom; they gain self-confidence and become more involved in the educational process. Full-time employment is of significant financial benefit to the student and is valuable in adding to the student's credentials for employment. Upon graduation, the co-op student has a decided edge in competing for professional positions.

The University believes that supervised work experience is worth college credit; therefore, upon successful completion of each semester of work experience, semester credit hours are awarded. Cooperative education courses will not be substituted for mandatory classes in the student's major. The Cooperative Education Program seeks to meet the needs of students in most academic disciplines offered at Kentucky State University. Therefore, the program is offered to all students after the completion of one full academic year of coursework (30 semester credit hours minimum) unless requested and approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Department Chair, or the major advisor. Participating students are expected to be in good standing with the University and have a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or better. Students may earn no more than twelve (12) semester credit hours in Cooperative Education courses (including both associate and baccalaureate degrees) during their tenure at KSU. In order to receive academic credit, a student must register for Cooperative Education courses.

### Pre-Professional Programs

Kentucky State University offers preparatory courses and advising for appropriate course selection for students intending to enter the fields of medicine, dentistry, law, engineering, optometry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, public health, and physical therapy, among others. Students who have an interest in one of these professions should contact the appropriate department c to inquire about placement with an appropriate advisor. Matching a career interest with a specialized advisor is key to successfully prepare for future admission into professional schools.

### Educational Support

The Office of Student Engagement and Campus Life provides strategic coordination of student success services from admission to graduation. The office strives to ensure that the programs, services, and activities, improve the students' intellectual, social, and emotional well-being.

## **Credit for Life Experience (CLE)**

The Credit for Life Experience program is a Kentucky State University option which affords an adult student, who has significant learning generated by life experiences, the opportunity to document this learning for possible academic credit. See the Credit Earning Alternatives section of Registration and Academic Records.

## **Donovan Scholars Program**

Kentucky residents, age 65 and older, can be admitted to the University through the Donovan Scholars Program. Tuition and fees are waived for program members who are afforded the choice of being part-time or full-time and can choose traditional or online classes at all degree levels. Must submit a copy of your driver license to the Bursar's Office to verify age and residency.

## **Project Graduate**

Project Graduate focuses on adults who have earned 90 or more college credit hours. Kentucky State University's Project Graduate Campus Action Plan is designed to provide academically qualified individuals the chance to complete a baccalaureate degree, improve their earning power and contribute more to their community and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. More specifically, the institution collaborates with the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education in a systematic effort to identify, recruit, and support students who have left Kentucky State University after completing the majority of work required to attain a baccalaureate degree.