

SUMMARY OF DEGREES AND GENERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS

Jacksonville State University offers six undergraduate degrees; Bachelor of Science in Education, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Students may be awarded multiple majors within many degrees and may complete more than one degree. However, students seeking to earn additional bachelor's degrees must complete a minimum of 32 semester hours in residence over and above the previously earned bachelor's degree and must meet all academic requirements for the degree sought as stipulated in the Undergraduate Catalogue at the time of enrollment in the additional degree program. The student must submit an updated application form to the appropriate Dean's office for approval in advance. Students may not be awarded multiple degrees in the same graduation exercise. The following section lists the various major areas which may be selected in each of the degrees.

I. BACHELOR OF ARTS

Majors for the B.A. degrees may be selected from any field in which majors are offered with the exceptions of physical education, computer science and computer information systems, family & consumer science, criminal justice, accounting, management, marketing, finance, education, social work, and teaching fields. Minor may be selected from any fields in which minors are offered.

II. BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

The requirements for the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) are listed under the Department of Art.

III. BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

The requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree are the same as those for the Bachelor of Arts degree, with the following exceptions:

1. Where the degree is chemistry and the minor is biology or mathematics, a foreign language is highly recommended. However, the taking of a foreign language is encouraged in all programs.
2. Majors the B.S. degree may be selected from the following fields: finance, biology, economics, family and consumer sciences, recreation, exercise science and wellness, management, marketing, accounting, computer science, computer information systems, chemistry, mathematics, physics, geography, sociology, psychology, criminal justice, computer integrated manufacturing systems technology, electronics technology, occupational safety and health, and technology.

Students may not take as a second (double) major a subject not permitted as a major in this degree.

IV. BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

The requirements for the Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) degree are listed under the department of Sociology and Social Work. Specific general studies requirements and Social Work requirements are detailed.

V. BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

The requirements for various degrees in education vary considerably. See the section entitled College of Education for the requirements of degrees in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Family & Consumer Science Education, Secondary Education, Physical Education, Health Education and Collaborative Education. Information regarding teaching fields may be found under the respective department or college.

VI. BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

The requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) are listed in the section entitled Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Programs of study are listed for both general students and licensed registered nurses seeking degree completion.

PRE-ENGINEERING

Students entering pre-engineering will consult their engineering advisor and the program outlined under the Department of Technology and Engineering.

PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Jacksonville State University provides the necessary academic experience for students who plan to seek admission to a health professional school in medicine, dentistry, optometry, physical therapy, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, as well as various paramedical programs including physician assistant. In most instances, students are expected to have completed a four-year program of study leading to a baccalaureate degree. While a specific major is not required for the health professions, most students who successfully matriculate in a health professional school including medical school, have elected a major in biology or chemistry.

Admission to a health professional school will require successful performance on the appropriate entrance examination (the MCAT, DAT, VAT, OCAT, etc.), a GPA of 3.2 or higher that has been achieved through a rigorous program of study, and a successful personal interview. These achievements are usually preceded by a serious dedication to their academic studies and a high degree of competitiveness that has been achieved through activities that demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills, such as undergraduate research.

The student must be well prepared prior to seeking admission; in general, this means a basic working knowledge of biology (17 semester hours or more), chemistry (16 semester hours or more), and often physics (8 semester hours or more). Advanced course work in biology and/or chemistry is highly recommended. Admission requirements to specific schools do vary; therefore, the student who is considering a health profession as a career must seek advice from a **pre-health professional advisor** very early in their course of study. The student should plan their academic program carefully, taking the specific courses required for admission to their school of choice. To insure a successive and positive academic experience, the student should maintain a close working relationship with their advisor. For this purpose, Jacksonville State University maintains a Health Careers Office in the Biology Department. Additional information on careers in the health professions may be found online at <http://www.jsu.edu/depart/biology.html>.

PRE-LEGAL COURSES

There is no single prescribed course of study which pre-law students must follow in order to gain admission to law school. The course most generally recommended is a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in one of the social sciences. Majors in political science and economics are especially recommended as they provide the lawyer with an excellent background for relations with government and business.

In addition to having an undergraduate degree, pre-law students are required to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) prior to entering law school. This should be done early in the student's senior year. Application forms for taking the LSAT may be secured from the Head of the Political Science Department.

HONORS PROGRAM

In keeping with the University's mission of serving the academic needs of a diverse student population, the Honors Program was established to provide academically gifted students with the opportunity to develop fully their intellectual potential. The Honors Program provides an enriched educational experience by fostering a strong grounding in the liberal arts and sciences, small classes, interaction with other outstanding and motivated students, instruction from some of JSU's most innovative and engaging faculty, special activities, and special recognition for students successfully completing eighteen hours or more of Honor's courses.

JSU offers Honors courses in the arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, and mathematics, which fulfill freshman and sophomore course requirements. Incoming students are invited for admission to the Honors Program based on ACT or SAT test scores. Since test scores may not always provide a complete picture of ability, students may consult with the department head about enrolling in Honors classes.

For further information, contact the Director of the Honors Program, College of Arts and Sciences, Jacksonville State University, 700 Pelham Road North, Jacksonville, AL 36265.

