

Potential Timelines for Completing Your Program

University degrees are often discussed in terms of the length of time it takes to complete them. For example, a Bachelor of Arts General Studies is a 3-year degree (15 units/30 courses), while a Bachelor of Arts with a Major is a 4-year degree (20 units/40 courses). This timeline is based on the common and historical practice of taking 2.5 units/5 courses each Fall and Winter semester, and no courses during the Summer sessions.

The length of time it takes to complete your program will depend on how many courses you take each academic year, and it is important to note that your course load should be one that allows you to balance your studies with other aspects of your life such as work, relationships, and extracurriculars.

It is up to you on how you would like to complete your degree, keeping in mind there is no one-size-fits-all model.

Below highlights a few scenarios of how your anticipated graduation date might change according to your course load per semester. We offer 2 scenarios where a student is either completing their Bachelor of Arts General Studies degree as full-time or part-time; there are 4 different timelines proposed for full-time and 2 timelines proposed for part-time.

Note: the maximum number of courses you can take each Fall and Winter semester is 2.5 units/5 courses, with 1.5 units/3 courses being the minimum for full-time status, unless registered with Accessibility Services (full-time status then requires 1.0 units/2 courses). The maximum number of courses you can take during the Summer sessions is 2.5 units/5 courses across *both* sessions. For example, you could take 1.5 units/3 courses in Summer Session I and 1.0 units/2 courses in Summer Session II, or vice versa.

Academic Advisors are here to support you with to select courses and find an individualized plan that works for you!

This document is intended to be a program planning guideline for the Bachelor of Arts & Science General Studies degree while maintaining full-time status. Please continue to the next page to review part-time status options. This program planning guideline does not incorporate students who have transfer credits, co-ops/work placements/practicums, majors, professional studies, or graduate studies. When planning your program, please be aware of prerequisites needed for future courses and remember that not all courses are offered every semester. Please review the Academic Calendar to see how many units/courses you need to complete for your respective program. **Please consult with an academic advisor to discuss program planning.**

Bachelor of Arts & Science – General Studies (Full-Time Status Options)

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Option 1 (3 years for degree completion)	Units	# of Courses
Fall Semester 1	2.5	5
Winter Semester 1	2.5	5
Spring/Summer Semesters 1	0.0	0
Fall Semester 2	2.5	5
Winter Semester 2	2.5	5
Spring/Summer Semesters 2	0.0	0
Fall Semester 3	2.5	5
Winter Semester 3	2.5	5
Spring Convocation Total units and courses completed	15 units	30 courses

Option 3 (2.5 years for degree completion)	Units	# of Courses
Fall Semester 1	2.5	5
Winter Semester 1	2.5	5
Spring/Summer Semesters 1	2.5	5
Fall Semester 2	2.5	5
Winter Semester 2	2.5	5
Spring/Summer Semesters 2	2.5	5
Fall Convocation Total units and courses completed	15 units	30 courses

Option 2 (3.5 years for degree completion)	Units	# of Courses
Fall Semester 1	2.0	4
Winter Semester 1	2.0	4
Spring/Summer Semesters 1	1.0	2
Fall Semester 2	2.0	4
Winter Semester 2	2.0	4
Spring/Summer Semesters 2	1.0	2
Fall Semester 3	2.0	4
Winter Semester 3	2.0	4
Spring/Summer Semesters 3	1.0	2
Fall Convocation Total units and courses completed	15 units	30 courses

Option 4 (5 years for degree completion)	Units	# of Courses
Fall Semester 1	1.5	3
Winter Semester 1	1.5	3
Spring/Summer Semesters 1	0.0	0
Fall Semester 2	1.5	3
Winter Semester 2	1.5	3
Spring/Summer Semesters 2	0.0	0
Fall Semester 3	1.5	3
Winter Semester 3	1.5	3
Spring/Summer Semesters 3	0.0	0
Fall Semester 4	1.5	3
Winter Semester 4	1.5	3
Spring/Summer Semesters 4	0.0	0
Fall Semester 5	1.5	3
Winter Semester 5	1.5	3
Spring Convocation Total units and courses completed	15 units	30 courses

Bachelor of Arts & Science – General Studies (Part-Time Status* Options)

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*If you are registered with Accessibility Services, you are considered full-time when registered in 2+ courses each semester. All other students are considered full-time when registered in 3+ courses each semester.

Option 1 (4.5 years for degree completion)	Units	# of Courses
Fall Semester 1	1.0	2
Winter Semester 1	1.0	2
Spring/Summer Semesters 1	2.0	4
Fall Semester 2	1.0	2
Winter Semester 2	1.0	2
Spring/Summer Semesters 2	2.0	4
Fall Semester 3	1.0	2
Winter Semester 3	1.0	2
Spring/Summer Semesters 3	2.0	4
Fall Semester 4	1.0	2
Winter Semester 4	1.0	2
Spring/Summer Semesters 4	1.0	2
Fall Convocation Total units and courses completed	15 units	30 courses

Option 2 (7.5 years + 1 Fall semester for degree completion)	Units	# of Courses
Fall Semester 1	1.0	2
Winter Semester 1	1.0	2
Spring/Summer Semesters 1	0.0	0
Fall Semester 2	1.0	2
Winter Semester 2	1.0	2
Spring/Summer Semesters 2	0.0	0
Fall Semester 3	1.0	2
Winter Semester 3	1.0	2
Spring/Summer Semesters 3	0.0	0
Fall Semester 4	1.0	2
Winter Semester 4	1.0	2
Spring/Summer Semesters 4	0.0	0
Fall Semester 5	1.0	2
Winter Semester 5	1.0	2
Spring/Summer Semesters 5	0.0	0
Fall Semester 6	1.0	2
Winter Semester 6	1.0	2
Spring/Summer Semesters 6	0.0	0
Fall Semester 7	1.0	2
Winter Semester 7	1.0	2
Spring/Summer Semesters 7	0.0	0
Fall Semester 8	1.0	2
Spring Convocation Total units and courses completed	15 units	30 courses

Potential Timelines for Completing Your Program

To sum it up, if you are doing fewer than 5 courses per Fall and Winter semester, you will need to do summer courses if you wish to complete your degree in 3 or 4 years (depending on program). You need to complete 10 courses per academic year to meet this timeline (a full academic year runs from September to August). However, you can set the pace of your program and complete your degree on your own time.

We recommend choosing a course load that works well for you, and to consider that completing your degree in a timely manner will ensure you stay motivated to finish your program.

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