

BSC ACADEMICS 101

EXPLORE

THE BEST IS

YET TO COME



SETTING THE GROUNDWORK

Your academic pathway to a degree at BSC likely will not look like other students' academic plans at most universities or traditional colleges.



OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM IS DISTINCT. YOU CAN'T FIT A SQUARE PEG IN A ROUND HOLE.

Don't try to make
BSC Academics
“fit” into what
You “think”
You *should* be studying.

We have a distinct
approach!



TRUST THE PROCESS





BSC UNITS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



1 BSC unit = 4 semester hours

REGULAR unit: fall, spring, or summer (full term)s

EXPLORATION TERM (E-term) unit: January (month-long term)

30 REGULAR units minimum (fall/spring/summer)

+

2 EXPLORATION Terms minimum (January) **may opt to take more

GRADUATION: 32 minimum units (30 + 2) = 128 semester hours equivalent

BSC UNITS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

BSC students will be enrolled in 4.0 units in their first term at BSC.

That's 16 semester hours equivalent.

Taking 4.0 units is full-time enrollment for financial aid, scholarships, campus housing, athletic eligibility and tracking towards the degree.

The general academic tracking is 4.0 units in each term.

**** The curriculum allows for two terms enrolled with 3.0 units, providing the student has satisfactory academic progress in all work attempted in 4.0 unit terms.**

**** 3.0 units = 12 semester hours= full-time enrollment**

GRADING SYSTEM

A	—	distinctive
A-	—	superior
B+	—	outstanding
B	—	very good
B-	—	good
C+	—	above average
C	—	average
C-	—	below average
D+	—	poor
D	—	lowest passing grade
F	—	failure
S	—	satisfactory (“C” or above)
U	—	unsatisfactory (“C-” or below)

A	=	4.000
A-	=	3.670
B+	=	3.330
B	=	3.000
B-	=	2.670
C+	=	2.330
C	=	2.000
C-	=	1.670
D+	=	1.330
D	=	1.000
F	=	0.000

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT BSC?

CREATING LIFELONG LEARNERS

1. **Academic Rigor.** We want BSC students to really digest and learn!
2. Students are **ACTIVE** participants and learners in classes. You will engage in your learning. Small classes allow for more interaction between faculty and students. We don't want to cultivate "test takers." Being a 'casual' student won't produce academic success.
3. Course content may be very similar to other institutions, but you will **DO** more with the material. Individual and Group Projects, leading class discussions, making class presentations are all examples of **ENGAGING** with what you are learning.
4. Faculty members will expect a high level of **student preparation** before classes. You should expect lots of reading, preparing homework ahead of time (may or may not be reviewed in class), engaging in discussion boards/forums on Moodle, etc.

****Your Professors won't do the work for you.**

You are expected to do the "academic heavy lifting."

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT BSC?

GENERAL EDUCATION IS DISTINCT

Traditional University:

- **Set group of required classes**
- **Limited choice in general education classes; it's a checklist:**

“Take 2 math courses.”

“Take 2 science courses.”

“Take 1 literature course.”

“Take 1 history course.”

“Take 2 social science courses.”

Birmingham-Southern College:

- ***Explorations* is our General Education Curriculum.**
- ***Learning Outcomes*- based**
- **Much more broad in how students fulfill requirements.**
- **Learning Outcomes (“tags”) can be fulfilled by multiple disciplines**

**YOU NEED TO LEARN ABOUT
EXPLORATIONS.**



EXPLORATIONS:

BSC's GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Explorations courses will have the following designations:

ES = Explorations in Scholarship (1st year students only)

WR = Writing Reinforcement (in the major)

CE = Creative Expression

QA = Quantitative Analysis (may/may not be math)

SM = Scientific Methodology (usually natural science)

IA = Interpretation and Analysis (2 required; different disciplines)

GP = Global Perspectives

CI = Community Interest

MFL = Modern Foreign Languages

} 3 total; max 2 per designation

QUIZ 1: HOW MANY EXPLORATIONS “TAGS” CAN YOU IDENTIFY?

Course	Credits	Instructor	Time	Location
IDS*142*L: Living a Life of Significance ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	Peter Van Zandt	TTh 12:30 PM - 1:50 PM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Stephens Science Center, 238 Lecture
MU*128*A-GP: History of Jazz and Blues I ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	David Phy	MWF 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Hill, 106 Lecture
PL*201*A-IA: Introduction to Philosophy ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	Charles Prusik	MW 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Berte Humanities Center, 112 Lecture
PS*195*A-ES: Pol, Media, and Pol Culture ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	Clinton Jenkins	TTh 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Harbert, 101 Lecture

QUIZ 1: HOW MANY EXPLORATIONS “TAGS” CAN YOU IDENTIFY?

3

IDS*142*L: Living a Life of Significance

✓ Registered, but not started

GP – Global Perspectives

MU*128*A-GP: History of Jazz and Blues I

✓ Registered, but not started

IA – Interpretation and Analysis

PL*201*A-IA: Introduction to Philosophy

✓ Registered, but not started

ES – Explorations in Scholarship

PS*195*A-ES: Pol, Media, and Pol Culture

✓ Registered, but not started

QUIZ 2: HOW MANY EXPLORATIONS “TAGS” CAN YOU IDENTIFY?

Course	Credits	Instructor	Time	Location
BA*105*A: Personal Finance and Modeling ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	Nancy Hartin Sara Robicheaux	MW 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Harbert, 301 Lecture
EH*102*E: Sem Critical Thinking Writing ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	Arnab Chakraborty	MW 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Berte Humanities Center, 319 Lecture
IDS*142*G: Living a Life of Significance ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	Teddy Champion	MW 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Berte Humanities Center, 227 Lecture
MA*207*D-QA: General Statistics ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	Doug Riley	TTh 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Olin, 102 Lecture

QUIZ 2: HOW MANY EXPLORATIONS “TAGS” CAN YOU IDENTIFY?

BA*105*A: Personal Finance and Modeling

✓ Registered, but not started

EH*102*E: Sem Critical Thinking Writing

✓ Registered, but not started

IDS*142*G: Living a Life of Significance

✓ Registered, but not started

MA*207*D-QA: General Statistics

✓ Registered, but not started

QA – Quantitative Analysis

QUIZ 3: HOW MANY EXPLORATIONS “TAGS” CAN YOU IDENTIFY?

Course	Credits	Instructor	Time	Location
BA*201*B: Foundations of Bus Thought ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	Mary Harrison	TTh 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Harbert, 227 Lecture
EC*201*A-CI: Prin of Macroeconomics ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	Umesh Ghimire	MW 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Harbert, 328 Lecture
IDS*142*J: Living a Life of Significance ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	Walter Turner	MW 12:30 PM - 1:50 PM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Stephens Science Center, 334 Lecture
SO*190*A-ES: Drugs and Society ✓ Registered, but not started	1 Credits	Meghan Mills	TTh 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM 8/24/2022 - 12/8/2022	Harbert, 304 Lecture

QUIZ 3: HOW MANY EXPLORATIONS “TAGS” CAN YOU IDENTIFY?

2

BA*201*B: Foundations of Bus
Thought

✓ Registered, but not started

CI – Community Interest

EC*201*A-CI: Prin of Macroeconomics

✓ Registered, but not started

IDS*142*J: Living a Life of Significance

✓ Registered, but not started

ES – Explorations in Scholarship

SO*190*A-ES: Drugs and Society

✓ Registered, but not started

EXPLORATIONS: It's **NOT** A ROADBLOCK.



- *Explorations* General Education does not have to be completed before starting the major.
- In fact, many *Explorations*-designated courses may also come from the major.
- Students are in a process of “**weaving**” in *Explorations* throughout their time at BSC.



- EMAIL >>
- INTRANET >>
- MOBILE PRINT >>
- MOODLE >>
- COLLEAGUE >>
- IT HELPDESK >>
- THE SIS >>
- GINKGO GO >>
- SELF-SERVICE >>
- CATERTRAX >>
- ENGAGE >>
- CLOCKWISE >>
- HANDSHAKE >>

SELF SERVICE IS THE TOOL!



BSC New Student Onboarding

“I’M WORRIED. HOW WILL I KEEP UP WITH MY EXPLORATIONS REQUIREMENTS?”

BSC Birmingham-Southern College

Hello, Welcome to Colleague Self-Service!
Choose a category to get started.

Notifications

Title	Details	Link
Panther Checklist Incomplete	Your panther checklist is incomplete. Please fill it out.	Panther Checklist Link

Student Finance
Here you can view your latest statement and make a payment online.

Financial Aid
Here you can access financial aid data, forms, etc.

Tax Information
Here you can change your consent for e-delivery of tax information.

Banking Information
Here you can view and update your banking information.


Employee
Here you can view your tax form consents, earnings statements, banking information, timecards and leave balances.

Student Planning
Here you can search for courses, plan your terms, and schedule & register your course sections.

Course Catalog
Here you can view and search the course catalog.

Grades
Here you can view your grades by term.

“I’M WORRIED. HOW WILL I KEEP UP WITH MY EXPLORATIONS REQUIREMENTS?”




[Academics](#) • [Student Planning](#) • [Planning Overview](#)

Steps to Getting Started

There are many options to help you plan your courses and earn your degree. Here are 2 steps to get you started:

1




View Your Progress

Start by going to My Progress to see your academic progress in your degree and search for courses.

[Go to My Progress](#)

2



Programs	Cumulative GPA
Major Undeclared/Undecided	(2.000 required)

Fall Term 22 Schedule



BS in Health Sciences

(1 of 1 programs)

At a Glance

Cumulative GPA:	3.541 (2.000 required)
Institution GPA:	3.541 (2.000 required)
Degree:	Bachelor of Science
Majors:	Health Sciences
Minors:	Psychology
Departments:	Health Sciences
Catalog:	21-22
Anticipated Completion Date:	12/30/2023

Description

Upon completion of the health sciences major, stud ... [more](#)

Program Notes

[Show Program Notes](#)

Major



Program

Progress

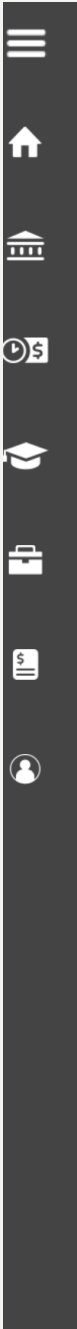


Total Credits



Total Credits fro





A. Connectivity

Connectivity. Creative insight and generative problem solving frequently occur by connecting previously disconnected areas of thought. Complete all of the following items. ⚠️ 1 of 2 Completed. [Hide Details](#)

1.
Explorations in Scholarship ✓ 1 of 1 Courses Completed. [Show Details](#) ←
2.
Scholarship Senior Seminar in Major ⚠️ 0 of 1 Courses Completed. [Show Details](#)

B. Communication

Communicate Effectively. Students should be able to communicate effectively in written, oral, and artistic forms to a variety of audiences. Complete all of the following items. ⚠️ 2 of 3 Completed. [Hide Details](#)

1.
English Composition ✓ 1 of 1 Courses Completed. [Hide Details](#) ←

Status	Course		Search
✓ Completed	EH*102	Sem Critical Thinking Writing	
✓ Fulfilled	EH*208	Intermediate Writing	

2.
Writing Reinforcement ⚠️ 0 of 1 Courses Completed. [Hide Details](#)

Status	Course		Search
ⓘ Not Started			

3.
Creative Expression ✓ 1 of 1 Courses Completed. [Hide Details](#) ←

Status	Course		Search
✓ Completed	AR*112	Three-Dimensional Design	



C. Problem Solving

Creative Problem Solving. We expect students to be able to identify and solve problems using a variety of methods. Complete all of the following items. ⚠️ 1 of 3 Completed. [Hide Details](#)

1. Quantitative Analysis ⌚ Fully Planned ⚠️ 0 of 1 Courses Completed. [Hide Details](#)

Status	Course
✓ Registered	MA*207 General Statistics

2. Scientific Methodologies ⚠️ 0 of 1 Courses Completed. [Hide Details](#)

Status	Course
ⓘ Not Started	

3. Interpretation and Analysis ✓ 2 of 2 Courses Completed. [Hide Details](#)

Status	Course
✓ Completed	UES*230 Climate Change & Water Mgnt
✓ Completed	RE*215 Intr Old Testament (RELG 101)

D. Civic Engagement

The fully engaged citizen articulates his or her place in the world by attending to historical, social, economic, and geographical issues. Three units are required. Up to two courses can be taken in the different areas but only one study abroad experience. Complete 3 of the following 7 items. ⚠️ 2 of 3 Completed. Fully Planned [Hide Details](#)

DON'T BOX YOURSELF IN!



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

**** GRADUATION REQUIREMENT BEGINNING AY 22-23**

An EL experience should be

- *Authentic*
- *Immersive*
- *Accountable*
- Such accountability can derive from the relationship formed in working closely with a **research mentor**, from an employer at an **internship** site, from the students in a class when working as a **teaching fellow**, or from the cultural accountability that comes with living and **studying abroad**, to name a few examples.



These characteristics combine to provide opportunities for students to exercise judgment, make decisions, and learn from mistakes as well as successes.

<u>Spring 2023</u>	
<i>IDS 142 1st Year Seminar</i>	1.00
EH 102/208 or ES course	1.00
Major or <i>Explorations</i>	1.00
<i>Explorations</i>	<u>1.00</u>
Total	4.00
	16 hrs)

IDS 142: LIVING A LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE

- **BSC states as its mission to prepare students “for lives of significance.”**
- **Enhances understanding of the liberal arts**
- **The course provides an enriching, extended orientation for all students, setting them on a path to make the most of their college experience.** The course prepares incoming students for high impact experiences, including securing an internship, identifying and working with mentors, participating in research opportunities, getting involved with student organizations, taking on leadership roles, and, perhaps most important, learning the dispositions appropriate for college level work in a liberal arts context
- **Builds community and connection to BSC:** As part of the course, students will connect with peers and another faculty member invested in their success. The projects will assist students in identifying and connecting with mentors and building deeper relationships with others on campus.

EXPLORATIONS IN SCHOLARSHIP (ES)

****REQUIRED IN 1ST YEARS**

Topics-Based with same Learning Goals/Outcomes:

- contribute to ongoing class discussions
- make effective oral presentations
- identify strengths and weaknesses of different points of view and approaches to problems
- position oneself in an ongoing conversation/argument
- engage in library and/or other research appropriate to the content of the seminar

ENGLISH WRITING COURSE



EH 102 Seminar in Critical Thinking and Writing or *EH 208 Intermediate Writing* fulfill BSC's Explorations general education writing requirement.

- Most all BSC students will be placed into *EH 102 Seminar in Critical Thinking and Writing*. It's the standard starting point.
- Some students will be placed in *EH 208 Intermediate Writing*. This is based on AP English score of 5, IB English score of 6, ACT English score of 32 or higher, or SAT Writing score of 710 or higher.

For new students Spring 2023, Your Academic Advisor Is Prof. Kim Lewis

If you have any questions about the academic program at BSC, I am always happy to respond.

KIM LEWIS

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Degree Audit Specialist

Senior Lecturer, Spanish

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