






Online Assessment Tracking Database

Sam Houston State University (SHSU)
2014 - 2015

General Studies BGS

Goal	Investigation Of Career Opportunities 🔑 Students will use employment outlook resources to conduct an investigation of potential professional career settings that might be pursued with their specific Bachelor of General Studies degree.
Objective (L)	Career Exploration 🔑 Students enrolled in UNIV 4301, the Bachelor of General Studies capstone course, will identify three professional career opportunities available upon completion of their BGS degree and provide employment trends and outlook, salary expectations, and potential employers for those careers.
Indicator	Career Exploration Evaluation 🔑 The career exploration objective will be evaluated using the career exploration rubric provided.
Criterion	Career Exploration Criterion 🔑 Ninety percent of BGS students enrolled in UNIV 4301 will complete the career exploration assignment with a score of 8 or greater as scored by the career exploration rubric.
Finding	Career Exploration Performance 🔑 In the 2014-2015 academic year, 23 students were enrolled in UNIV 4301 – the Capstone Course for the Bachelor of General Studies degree. Seven students were enrolled in the fall 2014 semester and 16 students were enrolled in the Spring 2015 semester. Performance on the Career Assessment Assignment fell short of the criteria set at 90 percent. Only 17 of the 23 (74 percent) students scored 8 out of 10 possible points or greater on this assignment.
Action	Action For Career Assessment 🔑 An email will be sent to each student enrolled in UNIV 4301 prior to the Career Assessment Assignment emphasizing the value of this assignment to the potential career of each student. They will be strongly encouraged to complete this assignment at a high standard.

Goal	Integration Of Concepts And Content Related To Academic Minors 🔑 Students enrolled in UNIV 4301 will submit a research paper that integrates content and concepts from at least two, preferably three, of their minor fields of study.
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Objective (L)	Capstone Paper  Students enrolled in UNIV 4301 will demonstrate integrative writing skills by writing a paper integrating content and concepts from at least two of the three minors.
Indicator	Capstone Paper Evaluation  The capstone paper objective will be evaluated using the career exploration rubric provided.
Criterion	Capstone Paper Score - At Least 75%  Ninety percent of BGS students will demonstrate a minimum level of critical thinking and writing ability by achieving a score of at least 75% on the integrated minor paper.
Finding	Capstone Paper Performance  In the 2014-2015 academic year, 23 students were enrolled in UNIV 4301 – the Capstone Course for the Bachelor of General Studies degree. Seven students were enrolled in the fall 2014 semester and 16 students were enrolled in the Spring 2015 semester. Performance on the Capstone Paper met the criteria set at 90 percent. Seven students scored 60 out of 60 points. Other scores ranged from 5 – 58, but only 2 of the 23 (9 percent) students failed to score 75 percent on the Capstone paper. Ninety-one percent of the students scored 75 percent or greater on the Capstone Paper.
Action	Integrative Writing Skills  No additional action will be taken to improve the performance on the Capstone Paper. The required English writing course will soon be implemented (that request is currently in the Registrar's Office) so that all newly declared BGS students will have the additional degree requirement to enhance their writing skills.

Previous Cycle's "Plan for Continuous Improvement"

The 2013-2014 cycle revealed a weakness in the research and writing skills of many Bachelor of General Studies students. Curriculum revisions will be proposed to address these issues.

Please detail the elements of your previous "Plan for Continuous Improvement" that were implemented. If elements were not implemented please explain why, along with any contextual challenges you may have faced that prevented their implementation.

A curriculum review for the BGS degree was conducted with the Associate Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs. As a result of that review, two new degree specific requirements have been added to the degree requirements. Those requirements are a computer science course and an upper-level writing course from the English department. These updates will be made to the 2014-2016 Undergraduate Catalog and to Degree Works. Additionally, a statement was added to the UNIV 4301 course syllabus emphasizing the

importance of the career exploration assignment and the value of investigating career options and employment outlooks.

Plan for Continuous Improvement - Please detail your plan for improvement that you have developed based on what you learned from your 2014 - 2015 Cycle Findings.

The Bachelor of General Studies degree is still a relatively new degree option at SHSU. While the number of students choosing the BGS degree option is growing, it is still a small program. However, more and more students indicate that the program is meeting their need of attaining a bachelor's degree and that the option of completing it on-line is convenient and effective for them. Annual curriculum reviews of the BGS degree options have recently resulted in new requirements for degree completion, the addition of two new on-line minor options (sociology and psychology) and the removal of one on-line minor option (English). The addition of more on-line minors is under exploration.

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