MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

Bachelor of Science Degree: Liberal Studies General Bulletin 2026-2027

Name: _____

Student ID: _____

General Education Requirements – see attached page for specific courses

A Minimum grade of "C-" required in all General Education courses. Note: Certain degrees may require a minimum grade of "C" in General Education courses.

Category I: Global Academic Skills (10 credits)

Gen Ed Category	Course	Credits	Grade	Semester	Equivalent
Mathematics (3 credits)					
English (3 credits)					
Communication & Information Literacy (3 credits)					
Skills for College Success (1 credit)	COLS 108				

NOTE: Skills for College Success Course: in addition to the MUS Transfer Policies (see MUS Core Curriculum), transfer and re-admit students who transfer in 30 or more credits are not required to meet this category.

Category II: Natural Sciences (6 credits)

Gen Ed Category	Course	Credits	Grade	Semester	Equivalent
Life Sciences (3 credits)					
Physical Sciences (3 credits)					

NOTE: Some majors are required to take specific science labs as part of their requirements. Please speak with an advisor for more information

Category III: Social Sciences and History (6 credits)

Gen Ed Category	Course	Credits	Grade	Semester	Equivalent
Social Science (3 credits)					
History (3 credits)					

Category IV: Cultural Diversity (3 credits)

Gen Ed Category	Course	Credits	Grade	Semester	Equivalent
Cultural Diversity (3 credits)					

Category V: Arts & Humanities (6 credits)

Gen Ed Category	Course	Credits	Grade	Semester	Equivalent
Fine Arts (3 credits)					
Humanities (3 credits)					

General Education Requirements

Category I: Global Academic Skills (10 credits)

Subcategory A – Mathematics (3 credits)

Subject	Number	Course Title	Credits
M	105	Contemporary Math	3
M	114	Extended Technical Mathematics	3
M	121	College Algebra	3
M	122	College Trigonometry	3
M	130	Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I	3
M	140	College Math for Health Care	3
M	143	Finite Mathematics	4
M	161	Survey of Calculus	3
M	171	Calculus I	4
STAT	141	Introduction to Statistical Concepts	3
STAT	216	Introduction to Statistics	4

Subcategory B – English (3 credits)

Subject	Number	Course Title	Credits
WRIT	101	College Writing I	3
WRIT	121	Introduction to Technical Writing	3
WRIT	122	Introduction to Business Writing	3

Subcategory C – Communication and Information Literacy (3 credits)

Subject	Number	Course Title	Credits
BMIS	150	Cyber Security & Electronic Communication	3
COMX	111	Introduction to Public Speaking	3
COMX	115	Intro to Interpersonal Communication	3
COMX	210	Communication in Small Groups	3
LSCI	125	Research in the Information Age	3

Subcategory D – Skills for College Success (1 credit)

Subject	Number	Course Title	Credits
COLS	108	Skills for College Success	1

Category II: Natural Sciences (6 credits)

Subcategory A – Life Science (3 credits)

Subject	Number	Course Title	Credits
BIOB	101	Discover Biology	3
BIOB	102	Discover Biology Laboratory	1
BIOB	120	Fundamentals of Biology Plants and People	3
BIOB	121	Fundamentals of Biology for Allied Health	3
BIOB	123	Fundamentals of Biology Nature of Nutrition	3
BIOB	160	Principles of Living Systems	3
BIOB	161	Principles of Living Systems Laboratory	1
SCIN	101	Integrated Sciences I	4

Subcategory B – Physical Science (3 credits)

Subject	Number	Course Title	Credits
ASTR	110	Introduction to Astronomy	3
ASTR	111	Introduction to Astronomy Laboratory	1
CHMY	121	Introduction to General Chemistry	3
CHMY	122	Introduction to General Chemistry Lab	1
CHMY	141	College Chemistry I	4
CHMY	142	College Chemistry II Laboratory	1
GEO	101	Introduction to Physical Geology	3
GEO	102	Introduction to Physical Geology Laboratory	1
GEO	112	Montana Geology	3
GPHY	262	Spatial Sciences Technology & Applications	3
GPHY	263	Spatial Sciences Tech & Applications Lab	3
PHSX	103	Our Physical World	3
PHSX	104	Our Physical World Laboratory	1
PHSX	205	College Physics I	3
PHSX	206	College Physics I Laboratory	1
SCIN	103	Integrated Sciences II	4

BIOB 101, BIOB 102, BIOB 120, BIOB 161, ASTR 111, CHMY 122, CHMY 142, GEO 102, GPHY 263, PHSX 103, PHSX 104, PHSX 206, SCIN 101, and SCIN 103 include a lab experience. Elementary Education majors can satisfy Natural Sciences by taking SCIN 101 and SCIN 103.

Category III: Social Sciences and History (6 credits)

Subcategory A – Social Sciences (3 credits)

Subject	Number	Course Title	Credits
BGEN	105	Introduction to Business	3
COMX	106	Communicating in a Dynamic Workplace	3
ECNS	201	Principles of Microeconomics	3
ECNS	202	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
EDU	105	Education and Democracy	3
HTH	110	Personal Health and Wellness	3
PSCI	210	Introduction to American Government	3
PSCI	220	Introduction to Comparative Government	3
PSYX	100	Introduction to Psychology	3
SOCI	101	Introduction to Sociology	3
SOCI	201	Social Problems	3

Subcategory B – History

Subject	Number	Course Title	Credits
HSTA	101	American History I	3
HSTA	102	American History II	3
HSTR	159	World History to 1500 CE	3
HSTR	160	Modern World History	3
PSCI	230	Introduction to International Relations	3

Category IV: Cultural Diversity (3 credits)

Subject	Number	Course Title	Credits
ANTY	220	Cultural and Society	3
ARTH	160	Global Visual Culture	3
COMX	212	Intro to Intercultural Communication	3
GPHY	121	Human Geography	3
HTH	270	Global Health Issues	3
LIT	230	World Literature Survey	3
MUSI	207	World Music	3
NASX	105	Intro to Native American Studies	3
NASX	205	Native Americans in Contemporary Society	3
REHA	201	Intro to Diversity in Counseling	3
RLST	170	The Religious Quest	3
SPNS	150	The Hispanic Tradition	3
WGSS	274	Women, Culture, and Society	3

Category V: Arts and Humanities (6 credits)

Subcategory A – Fine Arts (3 credits)

Subject	Number	Course Title	Credits
ARTZ	105	Visual Language-Drawing	3
ARTZ	106	Visual Language-2-D Foundations	3
ARTZ	108	Visual Language-3-D Foundations	3
ARTZ	131	Ceramics for Non-Majors	3
CRWR	240	Intro to Creative Writing Workshop	3
FILM	160	Intro to World Cinema	3
LIT	270	Film and Literature	3
MUSI	101	Enjoyment of Music	3
MUSI	114	Band: MSUB Symphonic	1
MUSI	131	Jazz Ensemble I: MSUB	1
MUSI	147	Choral Ensemble: University Chorus	1
PHOT	154	Exploring Digital Photography	3
THTR	101	Introduction to Theater	3

Subcategory B – Humanities (3 credits)

Subject	Number	Course Title	Credits
ARTH	150	Introduction to Art History	3
HONR	111	Perspectives & Understanding	3
LIT	110	Introduction to Literature	3
LIT	213	Montana Literature	3
PHL	110	Introduction to Ethics	3
PHL	111	Philosophies of Life	3
PHL	254	People and Politics	3

Major Requirements

A minimum grade of C or better is required in all major coursework

Thematic Concentration (30 credits total)

Main Focus Area

Students must have at least **15 credits** from one of the following disciplines (check which college applies):

- ☐ The College of Business
- ☐ The College of Education
- ☐ The College of Health Professions and Science
- ☐ The College of Liberal Arts and Social Science.

Course Subject	Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Grade	Semester	Equivalent

Supporting Coursework

Students must have at least **15 credits** of supporting coursework.

Course Subject	Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Grade	Semester	Equivalent

Electives

Course Subject	Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Grade	Semester	Equivalent

Academic Requirements – BSLS students must initial each requirement below:

— Earn at least 120 credits with a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better.

— Satisfy the General Education requirements of Montana State University Billings.

— Earn a minimum of 30 credits from MSU Billings.

— Complete a minimum of 36 upper division credits, of which at least 24 must be earned from MSU Billings.

— Complete a thematic concentration of 30 credits including at least 15 credits from one discipline. This concentration shall be prepared in collaboration with a faculty advisor and approved by the Dean of the College where the primary discipline in the plan resides.

— A grade of "C" or higher is mandatory in all courses in the thematic concentration.

— A minor is not allowed with this program.

Bachelor of Science Degree Liberal Studies

Credit log to be completed with your advisor:

Categories	Credits	Earned	Remaining
General Education	31		
Thematic Concentration	30		
Electives	V		
Total	120		

All Thematic Concentration courses MUST be approved by your faculty advisor, the Department Chair, and the Academic Dean of the College for the main focus area of the concentration. See attached Thematic Concentration Form.

Certain courses in this program have prerequisites; students should check course descriptions for required pre-requisites.

It is the student's responsibility to know and meet the requirements for graduation. A minimum of 36 credits must be upper division classes (300 and above).

Montana State University Billings

Advising Center

Phone: 406-657-2240

Fax: 406-657-2302

advising@msubillings.edu

Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies

Plan of Study for Thematic Concentration

Name: _____ Student ID#: _____

The BSLS degree requires, in lieu of a standard major, a thematic concentration involving courses from one or more departments. The concentration must contain a minimum of 30 credits, and at least 15 credits must be earned in one discipline. Students seeking the BSLS should consult with a faculty advisor on appropriate courses to fulfill the concentration. All proposals must include an explanation of the theme and be approved by a faculty advisor, and the Dean of College where the primary discipline resides.

I. Thematic Concentration

To be completed with academic advisor.

Main Focus Area (15 credits):

Course Subject	Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Grade	Semester	Equivalent

Supporting Coursework (15 credits):

Course Subject	Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Grade	Semester	Equivalent

II. Theme

Describe briefly the theme of this concentration and the way in which the proposed courses support this theme (two paragraphs):

- What would you like to do/pursue (career-wise) after you graduate? (3-5 sentences)
    - How does your Main Focus Area support this? (2-3 sentences)
    - How does your Supporting Coursework support this? (2-3 sentences)
- Why did you choose to do a BSLS degree? (3-5 sentences)

Signatures

Student: _____ **Date:** _____

Faculty Advisor: _____ **Date:** _____

Department Chair: _____**Date:** _____

Academic Dean: _____ **Date:** _____

In addition to the thematic concentration outlined on this form, all other degree requirements must be met including **at least 30 credits from MSU Billings**, **a minimum of 36 upper division credits (24 from MSU Billings), and a minimum of 120 total credits.**