What is the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree completion program?

The BAAS degree completion program consists of global studies and cognitive skills courses, along with internships and service-learning, that prepare students for professional lives and careers by giving them the ability to assimilate information and analyze complex problems, an understanding of global issues and the ability to work across cultures. Students learn to apply creative problem-solving skills to situations they are likely to face in their professional lives. The internships and service-learning components provide students with hands-on experience to connect classroom learning with a career-related environment.

When will the BAAS degree be offered?

The BAAS degree completion program is pending accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. If accreditation is given in early 2013, as anticipated, the first BAAS class will be enrolled in fall, 2013.

Which campuses offer the BAAS degree?

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<tr>
<th>UW Colleges Campus</th>
<th>UW Partner(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>UW-Baraboo-Sauk County</td>
<td>UW-La Crosse</td>
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<td>UW-Barron County</td>
<td>UW-Superior</td>
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<td>UW-Stout</td>
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<td>UW-Marshfield/Wood County</td>
<td>UW-Stevens Point</td>
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<td>UW-Richland</td>
<td>UW-Platteville</td>
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<td>UW-Rock County</td>
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<td>UW-Waukesha</td>
<td>UW-Parkside</td>
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How do students apply to the BAAS program?

Students must apply using the UW online admission application. The UW Colleges Office of the Registrar and the local campus student service office will process each application using the UW Colleges admission standards governed by UW Colleges Senate policies. BAAS degree seeking students will be enrolled as regular students at their home UW Colleges campus and as special students at the UW partner campus. Students are responsible for transferring courses completed at the partner institution back to their home UW Colleges campus.

Who issues the BAAS degree?

The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree will be awarded by the University of Wisconsin Colleges.

How many credits are required?

120 total credits are required. The AAS degree that is required for entry into the program makes up the first 60 credits. The UW Colleges will provide 30 credits of upper-level classes and the UW partner institution will provide an additional 30 credits of upper-level courses.
What is the tuition for the BAAS degree?

Tuition and fees will be charged according to the institution delivering the course. The UW Colleges tuition in the BAAS degree completion program will be the same as the UW partner institution’s standard tuition rate. Each institution’s segregated fees will apply to its own courses. Courses delivered online will be subject to each institution’s online tuition rate and administrative fees. [More.]

Is financial aid available?

Students may apply to their home UW Colleges campus for financial aid while they are enrolled in the BAAS degree program. Students must be enrolled in at least one UW Colleges course per term to be assured of financial aid consideration by UW Colleges.

How are courses delivered?

Courses may be delivered by face-to-face instruction, online, blended, interactive television, or streaming video. Courses may be made available at a variety of times of the day or evening.

Must students have an Associate of Arts and Science degree from UW Colleges to enroll?

The BAAS degree builds upon a foundation of an AAS degree. In general, a student must have an AAS degree from UW Colleges or an equivalent liberal arts associate degree from other college or university to enroll.

Can students apply for the BAAS program if they have an associate degree from a Wisconsin technical college?

In the future, some applied associate degrees from Wisconsin technical colleges may count as the first two years of a BAAS degree if they meet specific requirements. Chancellor Ray Cross has appointed a working group to establish those criteria.

How can students get credit for prior learning?

UW Colleges will grant a maximum of up to six credits for prior experiential learning to be applied toward the professional experience requirements of the BAAS degree.

How is the BAAS degree different from the UW System Flexible Option?

They can be easily confused, because both are primarily designed to reach adults who want to complete a bachelor’s degree, and both offer the option of applying for credit for prior experience and knowledge. However, the BAAS degree is a single bachelor’s degree with specific course requirements and an emphasis on applied knowledge gained through service-learning and internships. The Flexible Option is an alternative pathway to earning a bachelor’s degree in any one of several majors.

What courses are required?
Each participating UW Colleges campus will provide 30 upper-level credits: 15 credits of professional experience learning, including internships, service-learning, and up to six credits for prior learning; nine credits of global studies, cognitive skills and electives; and a six-credit capstone senior seminar. More.

Each UW partner university will provide 30 credits consisting of upper-level courses in global studies, cognitive skills and electives.

Do all of the credits have to come from one UW Colleges campus and one partner institution?

Students are required to have an AAS degree (or equivalent liberal arts associate degree) to enroll in the program. That degree can be from any UW Colleges campus or from another liberal arts college or university. In addition, students may be awarded up to six credits based on prior learning from any source. All of the remaining courses must be taken at the UW Colleges campus at which the student is enrolled or the UW partner institution affiliated with that campus.

What is the capstone seminar?

The Capstone Senior Seminar consists of six credits (two semesters) of individualized instruction in which a UW Colleges senior works closely with a UW Colleges faculty member to create a project with regional impact and global perspective utilizing higher-order intellectual skills. At the completion of the seminar, the student will have tangible evidence consisting of an employment portfolio, original research, performance or exhibit AND certification by UW Colleges faculty that learning outcomes have been achieved. Senior status is required. See the capstone report for more detail.

What is the professional experience requirement?

Internships, service-learning and prior experiential learning are considered part of the professional experience component, which includes 15 credits of experiential learning integrated with academic instruction. Prior experiential learning credits awarded will be based on an assessment of an experiential learning portfolio.

How much time does the professional experience require?

For a service-learning course, students should plan to spend approximately 40 hours during a three-credit semester-long course working on a service-learning project. These are total hours, including on-site hours, preparation, and study. For an Internship course, students should plan on spending 30 on-site hours per one credit for a 300-level internship course, and 40 on-site hours per one credit for a 400-level internship course.

Do students have to find their own professional experience situations?

It is the responsibility of the campus professional experience coordinator to facilitate and develop relationships between the campus – faculty, students, and administration – and community groups, organizations, and businesses partnering in internship or service learning programs and projects. In general, internships should be at an off-campus institution and supervised by an individual(s) with appropriate education and experience. See the professional experience report for more detail.

What is the service-learning requirement?
Unlike internships, the core courses in global and cognitive studies, and the capstone courses, the service-learning component is not a stand-alone course. Service-learning is embedded within 300-400 level courses in a variety of disciplines. This component of the BAAS degree will be listed with an “SL” attached to various courses, for example: ENG 305 (SL), BIO 321 (SL). See the professional experience report for more detail.

Who will award credit for prior experience and what must a student do to earn the credit?

Credit for prior learning will be assessed and awarded by the appropriate academic department. Students may earn up to six credits of PLA credit towards the BAAS degree. In order to earn the credit, a student must submit an experiential learning portfolio to the BAAS Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Coordinator, who will send the portfolio to the appropriate academic department to be assigned a faculty evaluator. The student and faculty evaluator will not communicate prior to submission of the portfolio, but may communicate following submission should additional materials be required from the student. A student request for re-evaluation or whose portfolio supports only partial credit for a challenged course will be provided the opportunity to submit additional materials for further evaluation as long as the original portfolio and previous Department comments are included with the new submission. According to Senate policy #141.02, a portfolio may be submitted once per semester. Following portfolio evaluation, the evaluator will report the result to the department chair for review. After determining that UW Colleges and department policies have been followed, the PLA Coordinator will ensure that the result is communicated to the student within the next semester and that the awarded credits are appropriately transcripted.

Can a student’s current job count as a professional experience?

Students can earn up to six credits towards the BAAS for prior learning that is assessed to be equivalent to an approved BAAS professional experience course. A student will earn college credit only when the learning achieved at their current job is assessed to meet the learning outcomes of an upper division BAAS service-learning or internship course.

What kinds of jobs will the BAAS degree prepare students to do?

One of the major benefits of the BAAS degree completion program is the focus on professional experience. Students will be able to apply their knowledge in a real world setting and gain valuable experience in a professional work environment. Graduates will acquire skills that employers are demanding of college graduates in order to become successful employees. In some cases, the internship placement may in fact lead to an immediate employment opportunity. As the BAAS degree will be customized to meet the professional interests of each student, the areas of employment will be widespread and varied. The student’s Advisor will work closely with the student to provide career counseling and job placement assistance prior to graduation.

How can faculty propose a new course for the BAAS degree completion program?

A faculty member who wants to propose a new course for the BAAS degree completion program must first get the approval of the department curriculum committee. Then the faculty member submits a new course proposal form (SBCC-001) to the Senate BAAS Curriculum Committee for review and approval.
along with form SBCC-002 with the signature of the department chair. After the SBCC approves the course, the SBCC Chair sends the course proposal to the UW Colleges Provost for final approval.