

# Division of Undergraduate Studies

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## Mission and Organization

The Division of Undergraduate Studies is dedicated to providing students in transition with the knowledge and skills on which to develop a successful university experience. To that end, the division administers several separate and distinct programs:

- 1) the General Studies Program for deciding/exploratory students
- 2) General Studies (GS) 100 Orientation
- 3) the University Studies (UNV) courses
  - a) UNIVERSITY 101 for new students
  - b) UNV 120 student leadership seminar
  - c) UNV 122 Luckyday Scholars' servant leadership seminar
  - d) UNV 310 job seeking skills course
  - e) UNV 315 course for resident assistants
  - f) UNV 325 course for peer educators
  - g) UNV 450 and 451 research seminars for McNair Scholars
- 4) the Developmental Education Program (DEP) for students who have not met regular admission criteria, including
  - a) the intensive 10-week summer remediation program
  - b) the fall and spring Academic Support (I and II) courses for DEP participants
- 5) the Learning Skills (LS) 101 course for students placing into intermediate math (MAT 99), reading (CIE 99), and writing (ENG 99) courses, according to the IHL policy
- 6) the Learning Skills (LS) 250 course for underachieving students needing to improve their overall performance, including those on academic probation, probation continued or suspension

Given that these programs reach students at critical points in college, the Division of Undergraduate Studies is essential to the university community in terms of promoting retention and persistence, graduation rates, academic success, and student satisfaction.

The over-arching purpose of the division is to help students make successful transitions. UNV 101 emphasizes the transition from high school, a two-year college, or the world of work to a four-year university, and, specifically, The University of Southern Mississippi. The General Studies Program helps students to work through the process of deciding upon a major, while steadily making progress toward satisfying university degree requirements. The Developmental Education Program provides an academic foundation for underprepared students to make the transition to college-level courses.

## General Studies Program

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The General Studies Program provides an organized plan of study for students who are exploring options for their academic major. It is the appropriate place for Southern Miss students who wish to sample university life and various fields of study before committing to a definite major. While in General Studies, students pursue the university's General Education Curriculum and work with specially trained academic advisers. Faculty from various disciplines provide high-quality advisement that encourages students to explore, select, and eventually commit to an appropriate major, thus facilitating the timely completion of an undergraduate degree. General Studies works closely with Southern Miss Career Services to help the deciding student.

Ordinarily the General Studies Program admits and enrolls only freshmen, though transfer students may be admitted with the consent of the director. **As with all programs at the university, transfer from another major into General Studies requires a minimum of a 2.00 GPA.** Students may remain in the General Studies Program through sophomore status; usually the program does not accept juniors or seniors.

## UNV 101 Program

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The Division of Undergraduate Studies administers the UNV 101 Program. UNV 101 seeks to provide a common experience for first-year students at Southern Miss, regardless of major. This course is designed to facilitate students' transition to university life, specifically at The University of Southern Mississippi. UNV 101 is a two-hour, letter-graded course that may be used to fulfill degree requirements at Southern Miss. Taught in a seminar setting by trained faculty, this course encourages the development of active learning skills, promotes responsible decision making, facilitates exploration of academic majors and career planning, and helps students establish rewarding human relationships in college with peers, professors, and the university staff.

## Developmental Education Program

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The Developmental Education Program offers students who do not meet regular admission criteria an opportunity to enroll in a four-year public institution of higher learning in the state of Mississippi. The entire program consists of three semesters (summer, fall, and spring) of prescribed study, determined by current IHL Board policy.

The summer component of the program includes the following courses: English (ENG 90), reading (CIE 90), mathematics (MAT 90), and support lab (LS 90L). Each course is 3 credit hours for a total of 12 credit hours. Students who successfully complete the summer term by passing **all** four courses will be considered to have made satisfactory academic progress in the first phase of the program and will be eligible to continue in the fall. **This includes mandatory participation** in the Developmental Education Program in the **fall and spring** immediately following the student's enrollment.

The fall component includes enrollment in Academic Support I (LS 101). The spring component includes enrollment in Academic Support II (LS 102). **Students must pass the fall and spring components of the Developmental Education Program immediately following the completion of the student's summer enrollment to maintain their enrollment status.**

Students who fail to satisfactorily complete all three components of the Developmental Education Program are considered to have made unsatisfactory academic progress and are not eligible for continued enrollment. These students will be counseled to explore other postsecondary opportunities.

# General Studies: University Curriculum

## Program Plan (GSUC)

### 01. WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATION (9 HRS)

- 01 ENG 101, 102 (Comp One and Two)
- 02 Senior Capstone Experience

### 02. GLOBAL HISTORY AND CULTURE (12 HRS)

- 01 SELECT 1 COURSE FROM ANT 101, GHY 101, SOC 101.
- 02 ENG 203
- 03 HIS 101 OR HIS 102
- 04 SELECT 1 COURSE FROM HIS 101, HIS 102, PHI 151, REL 131.

### 03. AESTHETIC VALUES (3 HRS)

- 01 SELECT 1 COURSE FROM ART 130, DAN 130, MUS 365, OR THE 100.

### 04. BASIC SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (11 HRS)

- 01 LABORATORY SCIENCES: 8 HRS
- 02 MAT 101 OR HIGHER

### 05. DECISION MAKING AND RESPONSIBILITY (3 HRS)

- 01 SELECT 1 COURSE FROM ECO 101, PHI 171, PSY 110, PS 101, COH 100, OR COH 101.

### 06. GENERAL ELECTIVES

- 01 GS 100 (ORIENTATION)
- 02 UNV 101 (REQUIRED FOR ENTERING STUDENTS)
- 03 OTHER ELECTIVES