
Division of Undergraduate Studies

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Mission and Organization

The Division of Undergraduate Studies, an academic unit within the Office of the Provost, 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) General Studies (GS) 100 Orientation
- 2) the University Studies (UNV) courses
 - a) UNIVERSITY 101 for new freshmen
 - b) UNV 120 student leadership seminar
 - c) UNV 122 Luckyday Scholars' servant leadership seminar
 - d) UNV 301 for new transfer students
 - e) UNV 310 job seeking skills course (formerly taught as PSY 301)
 - f) UNV 312 mentor training course
 - g) UNV 315 course for resident assistants
 - h) UNV 325 course for peer educators
 - i) UNV 450 and 451 research seminars for McNair Scholars
- 3) the Developmental Education Program (DEP) for students who have not met regular admission criteria, including
 - a) the intensive nine-week summer remediation program, known as the "Summer Developmental Program"
 - b) the fall and spring Academic Support (I and II) courses for DEP participants
- 4) the Learning Skills (LS) 101 course for students placing into intermediate algebra math (MAT 99), intermediate reading (CIE 99), and intermediate 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 and UNV 301 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 academic and career exploration, 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.

UNV 101 and UNV 301 Programs

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The Division of Undergraduate Studies administers two academic seminars for new students, UNV 101 for new freshmen and UNV 301 for new transfers. Both courses seek to provide a common experience for first-year students at Southern Miss, regardless of major. These courses are designed to facilitate students' transition to university life, specifically at The University of Southern Mississippi. Both seminars are 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, these courses encourage the development of active learning skills, promote responsible decision making, facilitate exploration of academic majors and career planning, and help students establish rewarding human relationships in college with peers, professors, and the university staff. Southern Miss strongly encourages all new students to enroll in the appropriate seminar (101 or 301) during their first semester of enrollment.

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, frequently referred to as the Summer Developmental Program, includes the following courses: English (ENG 90), reading (CIE 90), mathematics (MAT 90), and support lab (LS 90L). Each course is three 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 semesters 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.