**NOTE for 2021-2022 catalog: The Bachelor of Professional Studies program should be inserted in its own section after the General Education section of the catalog and before the Faculty of Arts and Sciences section of the catalog.**

**No tracking used as this is ALL new copy.**

**Bachelor of Professional Studies B.P.S.**

**THIS PROGRAM WILL NOT BE OFFERED UNTIL SPRING 2022 AS IT IS AWAITING FINAL APPROVAL FROM NECHE.**

Jenifer Giroux, Associate Vice President, Professional Studies and Continuing Education

BGS Degree Liaisons:

Jayashree Nimmagadda, Interim Dean, School of Social Work

Alema Karim, Interim Dean, School of Business

Program Director: TBD

Students **must**consult with their assigned academic advisor before they will be able to register for courses.

**General Information**

The Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS) degree is an online adult degree completion program delivered primarily as a cohort-based model using a split semester plan (two seven-week sessions per semester). The program is limited to adults 25 years and older with a minimum of 24 earned college credits and a minimum of five years of documented comprehensive work experience and/or military training.

The BPS is offered in two concentrations: organizational leadership and social services, both of which share three required cognate courses. Each concentration is designed to provide knowledge and skills required for career advancement, delivered in an efficient way to support working adults with considerable workplace experience. There is also an emphasis on diversity and ethics. Students in the cohort model will be registered for their courses each semester.

Students in the Social Services concentration will also earn a Certificate in Nonprofit Studies as part of their BGS program.

The Bachelor of Professional Studies also includes a prior learning assessment (PLA) component, with the development of a PLA portfolio in BGS 100 Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Portfolio Development, a first course in the program, which also includes an orientation to Rhode Island College.

Under the guidance of the faculty member, students will document and validate knowledge, skills and competencies earned outside the traditional classroom via workplace learning, employer or armed service-sponsored training, experiential learning, organization and industry certifications, on-the-job-training, professional development, microcredentials, digital badging, continuing education units, self-education, etc. Students will submit a completed portfolio at the end of the course. The portfolio will be evaluated by the instructor for the number of prior learning credits (PLA) to be awarded. The instructor may request an additional review by the BPS liaisons as needed. Students may earn up to 32 credits for prior learning documented in their portfolio.

Any student who decides to pursue a major other than the B.P.S. must complete all requirements of that degree including the college’s standard General Education program. The Bachelor of General Studies is intended to be a first bachelor’s degree and may not be taken as a second degree program.

**Admission Requirements for the Bachelor of Professional Studies B.P.S. Program**

1. Program admission is restricted to adults 25 years and older at the time of application.
2. Minimum of five years of documented comprehensive work experience and/or military training.
3. 24 minimum earned college credits at the time of application (from a regionally accredited college or university).
4. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale in undergraduate course work.

**Retention Requirements**

A minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale is required for the degree and graduation.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CHOOSE concentration A or B below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A. Organizational Leadership | | |
| BPS 460 | Seminar in Organizational Leadership | 4 |
| COMM 333 | Intercultural Communication | 4 |
| COMM 454 | Organizational Communication | 4 |
| ECON 200 | Introduction to Economics | 4 |
| MGT 201W | Foundations of Management | 4 |
| MGT 306 | Management of a Diverse Workforce | 4 |
| MGT 320 | Human Resource Management | 4 |
| MGT 322W | Organizational Behavior | 4 |
| MGT 341W | Business, Government and Society | 4 |

**Total Credit Hours: 36 credits**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| B. Social Services | | |
| BPS 461 | Seminar in Social Services | 4 |
| COMM 333 | Intercultural Communication | 4 |
| HPE 410 | Managing Stress & Mental/Emotional Health | 3 |
| NPST 300 | Institute in Nonprofit Studies | 4 |
| NPST 301 | Financial Management in Nonprofit Studies | 3 |
| NPST 402 | Staff and Volunteer Management for Nonprofits | 3 |
| NPST 404 | Communications and Resource Dev. for Nonprofits | 3 |
| SWRK 325 | Diversity and Oppression II | 4 |
| SWRK 326W | Generalist Social Work Practice | 4 |
| SPED 461 | Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders | 3 |

**Total Credit Hours: 35 credits**

# GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

# The college has a 40-credit General Education program which is required for all undergraduate programs. The Bachelor of Professional Studies is the only degree program with an approved alternate general education program. It includes several courses BPS students may have completed in prior college work and will not need to repeat. In addition, five specific courses will double count as General Education courses as well as part of the program and apply to both concentrations (noted with an asterisk\*).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **General Education for BPS** | **Course(s)** |  |
| Introduction to BPS | BPS 100 Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Portfolio Development\* | 1 |
| Professional Writing | FYW 100 First Year Writing, and ENGL 230W Workplace Writing\* or 231W Multimodal Writing\* or 232W Public and Community Writing\* | 8 |
| Quantitative Skills | MATH 139 Contemporary Topics in Mathematics or any mathematics course numbered 177 or higher | 4 |
| Arts and Humanities | PHIL 206 Ethics\* plus one 100-level or higher course in art, dance, film, English (literature), history, modern languages, music or theatre | 6-7 |
| Science/AQSR | PSCI 250 Science as a Way of Knowing | 4 |
| Social & Behavioral Sciences | SOC 208 The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity \* and SOC 306 Work and Organizations \* | 8 |

# Total Credit Hours: 31-32 credits

# NOTE: Students in Organizational Leadership may count ECON 200 and students in Social Sciences may count SWRK 325 towards four of the remaining general education credits. This leaves 4-5 additional credits to fulfill the BPS general education requirement. Prior earned college credit will be evaluated to determine which (if any) of the above or those additional credits 4-5 credits may be counted. If not, the student will have to take one to two additional Gen Eds prior to graduation. GEND 200 can be offered in the 7-week format and will be among the recommended choices for additional Gen Ed credit if needed.

**NOTE for 2021-2022 catalog: Three new courses to be added to Course Descriptions section of the catalog between listings for Art Media and Bilingual Bicultural Education.**

**BPS 100 - Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Portfolio Development (1)**

Students experience a RIC orientation and learn how to document learning and proficiencies mastered outside the classroom in order to develop a portfolio which will be evaluated for PLA credit.

Prerequisite

Acceptance into the Bachelor of Professional Studies program.

Offered

Fall, Spring, Summer

**BPS - 460 Seminar in Organizational Leadership (4)**

Students prepare and present a final project on organizational leadership using a cross-disciplinary approach for the theoretical or practical application of a topic or issue of interest.

Prerequisite

Acceptance into the Bachelor of Professional Studies program in the Organizational Leadership concentration. Taken in the final semester of program.

Offered

Fall, Spring

**BPS 461 - Seminar in Social Services (4)**

Students prepare and present a final project on social services using a cross-disciplinary approach for the theoretical or practical application of a topic or issue of interest.

Prerequisite

Acceptance into the Bachelor of Professional Studies program in the Social Services concentration. Taken in the final semester of program.

Offered

Fall, Spring