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Bachelor of Professional Studies B.P.S.

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**BPS Degree Liaisons:**

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**Program Director:  TBD**

**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 eight-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 four concentrations:  organizational leadership, social services, strategic communication and educational foundations. 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 BPS program will earn a Certificate of Undergraduate Study (C.U.S.) as part of their concentration requirements.

C.U.S. in Workplace Diversity (Organizational Leadership)

C.U.S. in Nonprofit Studies (Social Services)

C.U.S. in Conflict & Crisis Communication (Strategic Communcation)

C.U.S. in Equity & Literacy (Educational Foundations)

The Bachelor of Professional Studies also includes a prior learning assessment (PLA) component, with the development of a PLA portfolio in BPS 100 Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Portfolio Development, a first course in the program, which also includes onboarding 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 initially evaluated by the BPS 100 instructor for the number of prior learning credits (PLA) to be awarded. The instructor will forward their recommendation to the appropriate BPS Degree Liaison for a final decision on the credit award. 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 Professional 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). Applicants who have fewer than 24 credits but have an earned certificate from Rhode Island College (15 or or more credits) may be considered for conditional admission to the BPS.

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.

Bachelor of Professional Studies

CHOOSE Concentration A or B below:

Course Requirements

A. Organizational Leadership

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

Subtotal: 36

B. Social Services

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BPS 461 | Seminar in Social Services | 4 | F, Sp |
| COMM 333 | Intercultural Communication | 4 | As needed |
| HPE 410 | Managing Stress and Mental/Emotional Health | 3 | F, Sp |
| NPST 300 | Institute in Nonprofit Studies | 4 | F |
| NPST 301 | Financial Management for Nonprofits | 3 | Sp |
| NPST 402 | Staff and Volunteer Management for Nonprofits | 3 | F |
| NPST 404 | Communications and Resource Development for Nonprofits | 3 | Sp |
| SWRK 325 | Diversity and Oppression II | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SWRK 326W | Generalist Social Work Practice | 4 | F, Sp |
| SPED 461/SPED 561 | Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders | 3 | F |

Subtotal: 35

C. Strategic Communication (you already have this copy from Giselle)

D. Educational Foundations

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BPS 463 | Seminar in Educational Foundations | 4 | F, Sp |
| CEP 215 | Educational Psychology | 4 | F, Sp |
| CURR 201 | Introduction to Lesson Planning | 2 | F, Sp |
| CURR 202 | Introduction to Assessment | 2 | F, Sp |
| ECED 232 | Building Family, School and Community Connections | 3 | F, Sp |
| ELED 400 | Curriculum and Assessment with Instructional Technology | 3 | F |
| ELED 480 | Topics in Literacy Foundations | 3 | Sp |
| FNED 246  | Schooling for Social Justice | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SPED 211 | Communication for SPED and ELED Classrooms | 3 | F, Sp |
| SPED 333 | Introduction to Special Education: Policies/Practices | 3 | F, Sp |
| TESL 401 | Introduction to Teaching Emerging Bilinguals | 4 | F, Sp |
| TESL 402 | Applications of Second Acquisition | 4 | F, Sp |

 Subtotal: 39

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. Other courses have been selected that will satisfy General Education outcomes as well as program requirements in both concentrations.

Introduction to BPS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BPS 100 | Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Portfolio Development | 1 | F, Sp, Su |

Subtotal: 1

Professional Writing

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FYW 100 | Introduction to Academic Writing | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
|  |   |  |  |
|  | -And- |  |  |
|  |   |  |  |
| ENGL 230W | Workplace Writing | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
|  | -Or- |  |  |
| ENGL 231W | Multimodal Writing | 4 | As needed |
|  | -Or- |  |  |
| ENGL 232W | Public and Community Writing | 4 | As needed |
|  | -Or- |  |  |
|  | Any 200-level or higher writing course (WID) related to the specific BPS concentration |  |  |

Subtotal: 8

Quantitative Skills

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MATH 139  | Contemporary Topics in Mathematics | 4 | F, Sp, Su |

Subtotal: 4

or any mathematics course numbered 177 or higher.

Arts and Humanities

PHIL 206 plus one 100-level or higher course in art, dance, film, English (literature), history, modern languages, music or theatre.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PHIL 206 | Ethics | 3 | F, Sp, Su |

Subtotal: 6-7

Science/AQSR

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PSCI 250 | Topic: Science as a Way of Knowing | 4 | As needed |

Subtotal: 4

Social & Behavioral Sciences

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SOC 208 | The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity | 4 | F, Sp, Su |
| SOC 306 | Work and Organizations | 4 | As needed |

Subtotal: 8

NOTE: Each concentration includes a course which students may count towards four of the remaining general education credits. Organizational Leadership students may count ECON 200. Social Sciences students may count SWRK 325. Strategic Communication students may count COMM 256 Educational Foundations students may count CEP 215.

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.

## Index

Certificate of Undergraduate Study

[NOTE: please place alphabetically—which would seem like between Early Childhood and General Science, but unsure if other new CUS might be there]

equity and literacy C.U.s.

Admission Requirements

The certificate in Equity and Literacy is embedded into the requirements for the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree with a concentration in educational foundations. However, it is also open to any undergraduate student who has a minimum of 45 earned credits.

Completion Requirement

A 2.0 GPA in the program is required.

Course Requirements

Courses

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FNED 246 | Schooling for Social Justice | 4 | F, Sp |
| CEP 215 | Educational Psychology | 4 | F, Sp |
| ECED 232 | Building Family, School and Community Connections | 3 | F, Sp |
| ELED 480  | Topics in Literacy Foundations | 3 | F, Sp |
| SPED 333 | Introduction to Special Education: Policies/Practices | 3 | F, Sp |
|  |
| Total credit hours: 17 |

# BPS - Bachelor of Professional Studies

BPS 100 - Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Portfolio Development (2)

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

BPS 462 [submitted in a different proposal]

BPS 461 - Seminar in Educational Foundations (4)

Students prepare and present a final project on educational foundations 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 Educational Foundations concentration. Taken in the final semester of program.

Offered: Fall, Spring