

## UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (B.A.A.S.) degree completion program

**The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree is a 60-credit (20 courses) degree completion program offered regionally on six of the UW Colleges campuses and in partnership with six UW System four-year universities.**

UW Colleges Campus	UW Partner(s)
UW-Baraboo-Sauk County	UW-La Crosse
UW-Barron County	UW-Superior UW-Stout
UW-Marshfield/Wood County	UW-Stevens Point
UW-Richland	UW-Platteville
UW-Rock County	UW-Platteville
UW-Waukesha	UW-Parkside

**The B.A.A.S. degree is pending accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. The earliest that enrollment in the program might begin would be fall 2013.**

- **Targeted Populations:** The primary populations to be served by the degree are:
  1. Adult students holding a liberal arts associate degree from the UW Colleges (Associate of Arts and Science), another university or a technical college.
  2. Students who do not yet have a liberal arts associate degree but are interested in completing one through UW Colleges before beginning the B.A.A.S. degree. These may include:
    - a. Place-bound adults who have earned college credits and/or have prior learning experiences.
    - b. Swirling adult students who have gathered credits from several different colleges or universities; however, the credits do not add up to a program/degree.
- **Statewide Focus:** The degree will be offered initially on six of the thirteen UW Colleges campuses: UW-Baraboo/Sauk County, UW-Barron County, UW-Marshfield/Wood County, UW-Richland, UW-Rock County and UW-Waukesha.
- **Professional Experience Component:** The professional experience component of the B.A.A.S. degree will include the ability to develop professional experience through: internship, service-learning and in some cases, credit for prior experiential learning.
- **Other Components:** Students will take courses in global studies and cognitive skills and will complete a senior capstone seminar.
- **Prior Learning Assessment:** Credit for prior learning will be available to students who can document learning experiences equivalent to a university-level course in the B.A.A.S degree curriculum.
- **Credit Repository:** Students with credits from an accredited institution of higher learning or with prior experiential learning will be able to work one-on-one with an advisor to determine how these credits apply toward the B.A.A.S. degree. Once the student's college transcripts and prior learning are assessed and credits awarded, these results will be housed in a web-based credit repository. The credit repository will allow adults to continuously chart where they stand in relation to the attainment of a bachelor's degree.

- **Flexible Course Delivery for Busy Adults:** The UW Colleges will draw on its extensive experience in student-centered course delivery to employ multiple modes of instruction, including compressed video in the classroom, streaming video on the web, online, blended online and classroom, and accelerated modes of delivery. Further, courses may offered in a variety of instructional formats including accelerated short-course formats, regional seminars, and evening or weekend courses, and at times convenient for adult learners to enroll in courses.
- **Learning Outcomes:** the B.A.A.S. degree is built on the AAC&U's *Liberal Education and America's Promise* (LEAP) essential learning outcomes that include knowledge of human cultures and the natural world, practical and intellectual skills, integrative learning, and personal and social responsibility.

## University of Wisconsin Colleges Background

As part of the UW System, the University of Wisconsin Colleges has a single administration with 13 two-year campuses located throughout the state. The UW Colleges is known for its affordability, accessibility, and high quality education.

- A profile of UW Colleges students:
  1. 60% are new freshmen.
  2. 2<sup>nd</sup> largest new freshmen class in UW System.
  3. 34% of students are adults (22 or older).
  4. 98% are commuters.
  5. 52% work more than 20 hours per week.
  6. 27% work more than 30 hours per week.
- The strengths of the UW Colleges:
  1. 83% of professors have a Ph.D. or other terminal degree.
  2. Average class size is 23.
  3. Provides a UW education in local communities.
  4. Prepares students for success in bachelor's degrees and beyond.
  5. Engages students in a high quality academic institution.
- The UW Colleges has a history of innovation and responsiveness to need with:
  1. Dozens of collaborative bachelor's degree programs with UW four-year institutions.
  2. UW Colleges Online which offers a fully accredited associate degree online.
  3. 26 areas of emphases within the Associate of Arts and Science degree.
  4. Engaging Students in the First Year Initiative retention program.
  5. Accelerated courses targeted to working adults.

### Need for a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree

- The UW Colleges has been granted approval from the Board of Regents to implement a single multi-disciplinary Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree completion program **targeted to adult place-bound students**.
- Easing geographic access to higher education for place-based non-traditional students enhances opportunities across Wisconsin so residents can gain access to higher education **wherever they live and work**.
- Businesses will benefit from a **better-educated workforce** in order for Wisconsin businesses to move forward and compete in the global economy.
- A recent market study concluded that overall, there is **strong support (94%) among employers** for the UW Colleges to offer the B.A.A.S. degree.
- A majority of employers indicated that it is somewhat difficult to find and hire qualified workers, and 45% stated that the local labor supply falls slightly short of their organization's needs. The study suggests that the B.A.A.S. degree **could help fill the need for a larger, more qualified labor supply**.
- **Wisconsin lags behind our neighboring states in terms of adults with a four-year degree.** In 2006, 31 percent of adults in Minnesota had bachelor's degrees. In Wisconsin, 25 percent had four-year degrees.