



**BSC  
ACADEMICS 101**

**WHAT MAKES US DISTINCT?**

# ABOUT THE INSTITUTION

- Liberal Arts Institution – breadth and depth
- Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Fine Arts
- *Explorations* general education: Learning Outcomes-Based
- 30 academic majors
- 29 minors
- 4 Academic Distinctions: Leadership Studies, Poverty Studies, Public Health Studies, Black Studies
- 4 Dual Degree Programs (highly specific requirements): Engineering, Nursing, Environmental Studies, Law

# SETTING THE GROUNDWORK

Each student's academic pathway to a degree at BSC likely will not look like other students' academic plans at most universities or traditional colleges.



# OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM IS DISTINCT. YOU CAN'T FIT A SQUARE PEG IN A ROUND HOLE.

Avoid trying to make  
BSC Academics  
“**fit**” into what you  
“**think**” your student  
should be studying.

We have a distinct  
approach!



# WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT BSC?

## \*CREATING LIFELONG LEARNERS\*

1. **Academic Rigor.** We want BSC students to really digest and learn!
2. Students are **ACTIVE** participants and learners in classes. They will engage in learning. Small classes allow for more interaction between faculty and students. We don't want to cultivate "test takers." We want to produce world changers!
3. Course content may be very similar to other institutions, but students will **DO** more with the material. Individual and Group Projects, leading class discussions, making class presentations are all examples of **ENGAGING** with what students are learning.
4. Opportunities for engagement **OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM** are designed to enhance learning. Service-learning class requirements, internships, and the January **EXPLORATION TERM** provide opportunities to apply classroom learning to real-world settings.

# WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT BSC?

## \*GENERAL EDUCATION IS DISTINCT\*

### Traditional University:

- Set group of required classes
- Limited choice in general education classes; it's a checklist:
  - “Take 2 math courses.”
  - “Take 2 science courses.”
  - “Take 1 literature course.”
  - “Take 1 history course.”
  - “Take 2 social science courses.”

### Birmingham-Southern College:

- *Explorations* is our General Education Curriculum.
- *Learning Outcomes*- based
- Much more broad in how students fulfill requirements.
- Learning Outcomes (“tags”) can be fulfilled by multiple disciplines

# EXPLORATIONS: BSC's GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

*Explorations* courses will have the following designations:

**ES** = Explorations in Scholarship (1<sup>st</sup> year students only)

**WR** = Writing Reinforcement (in the major)

**CE** = Creative Expression

**QA** = Quantitative Analysis (may/may not be math)

**SM** = Scientific Methodology (usually natural science)

**IA** = Interpretation and Analysis (2 required; different disciplines)

**GP** = Global Perspectives

**CI** = Community Interest

**MFL** = Modern Foreign Languages

} 3 total; max 2 per designation

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

**\*\* GRADUATION REQUIREMENT BEGINNING AY 22-23**

An EL experience should be

- **Authentic**
- **Immersive**
- **Accountable**
- Such accountability can derive from the relationship formed in working closely with a **research mentor**, from an employer at an **internship** site, from the students in a class when working as a **teaching fellow**, or from the cultural accountability that comes with living and **studying abroad**, to name a few examples.



These characteristics combine to provide opportunities for students to exercise judgment, make decisions, and learn from mistakes as well as successes.



# BSC UNITS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

**1 BSC unit = 4 semester hours**

REGULAR unit: fall, spring, or summer (full term)

EXPLORATION TERM (E-term) unit: January (month-long term)

30 REGULAR units minimum (fall/spring/summer)

+

2 EXPLORATION Terms minimum (January) \*\*may opt to take more

**GRADUATION: 32 minimum units (30 + 2) = 128 semester hours equivalent**

# BSC UNITS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

**BSC students will be enrolled in 4.0 units in their first term at BSC.**

**That's 16 semester hours equivalent.**

Taking 4.0 units is full-time enrollment for financial aid, scholarships, campus housing, athletic eligibility and tracking towards the degree.

**The general academic tracking is 4.0 units in each term.**

\*\* The curriculum allows for two terms enrolled with 3.0 units, providing the student has satisfactory academic progress in all work attempted in 4.0 unit terms.

\*\* 3.0 units = 12 semester hours = full-time enrollment

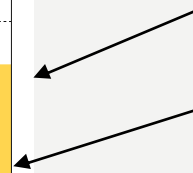
**Course Plan for: Incoming 1st Year Student**

**Major: To be Determined**

**BSC Degree Requirements (All Students): 30.0 regular units and 2 E-terms (128 semester hours)**

<u>Fall XXXX</u>		<u>E-Term</u>		<u>Spring XXXX</u>		<u>Summer</u>
IDS 142 1st Year Seminar	1.00	<b>Required</b>		EH 102/208 or ES course	1.00	
EH 102/208 or ES course	1.00	<b>for 1st Yr</b>		Explorations	1.00	
Major or Explorations	1.00			Major or Explorations	1.00	
Explorations	<u>1.00</u>			(4th course if desired)	<b>*1.00</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>			<b>3.0-4.0</b>	
	16 hrs)	(4 hrs)			(12-16 hrs)	
<u>Fall XXXX</u>		<u>E-Term</u>		<u>Spring XXXX</u>		<u>Summer</u>
Explorations	1.00	<b>Optional:</b>		Explorations	1.00	
Explorations	1.00	<b>On-Campus</b>		Explorations	1.00	
Explorations	1.00	<b>or Travel</b>		Explorations	1.00	
Major	<u>1.00</u>			Major	<u>1.00</u>	
	<b>4.00</b>	<b>*1.00</b>			<b>4.00</b>	
	(16 hrs)	(4 hrs)			(16 hrs)	
<u>Fall XXXX</u>		<u>E-Term</u>		<u>Spring XXXX</u>		<u>Summer</u>
Major	1.00	<b>Optional/</b>		Major	1.00	
Major	1.00	<b>On-Campus</b>		Major	1.00	
Explorations	1.00	<b>or Travel</b>		Explorations	1.00	
Explorations	<u>1.00</u>	<b>or Intern</b>		Explorations/Elective	<u>1.00</u>	
	<b>4.00</b>	<b>*1.00</b>			<b>4.00</b>	
	(16 hrs)	(4 hrs)			(16 hrs)	
<u>Fall XXXX</u>		<u>E-Term</u>		<u>Spring XXXX</u>		<u>Summer</u>
Major	1.00	<b>If needed</b>		Sr. Seminar-Major	1.00	
Major	1.00			Major or elective	1.00	
Explorations/Elective	1.00	<b>1.00</b>		Explorations/Elective	1.00	
Explorations/Elective	<u>1.00</u>	(4 hrs)		** (Add'l unit if needed)	<u>(...)</u>	
	<b>4.00</b>	<b>2.0 total</b>			<b>3.00</b>	
	(16 hrs)	<b>minimum</b>			(12 hrs)	<b>30.00</b>
						<b>minimum</b>
<b>Graduation reqs. met: 30 regular units &amp; 2 E-terms</b>						

30 regular units +  
2 E-terms =  
Graduation  
minimum



<b><u>Fall 2022</u></b>	
<i>IDS 142 1st Year Seminar</i>	1.00
EH 102/208 or ES course	1.00
Major or <i>Explorations</i>	1.00
<i>Explorations</i>	<u>1.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.00</b>
	(16 hrs)

# IDS 142: LIVING A LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE

- **BSC states as its mission to prepare students “for lives of significance.”**
- **Enhances understanding of the liberal arts**
- **The course provides an enriching, extended orientation for all students, setting them on a path to make the most of their college experience.** The course prepares incoming students for high impact experiences, including securing an internship, identifying and working with mentors, participating in research opportunities, getting involved with student organizations, taking on leadership roles, and, perhaps most important, learning the dispositions appropriate for college level work in a liberal arts context
- **Builds community and connection to BSC:** As part of the course, students will connect with peers and another faculty member invested in their success. The projects will assist students in identifying and connecting with mentors and building deeper relationships with others on campus.

# **EXPLORATIONS IN SCHOLARSHIP (ES)**

## **\*\*REQUIRED IN 1<sup>ST</sup> YEARS**

### *Topics-Based with same Learning Goals/Outcomes:*

- contribute to ongoing class discussions
- make effective oral presentations
- identify strengths and weaknesses of different points of view and approaches to problems
- position oneself in an ongoing conversation/argument
- engage in library and/or other research appropriate to the content of the seminar

# ENGLISH WRITING COURSE



*EH 102 Seminar in Critical Thinking and Writing* or *EH 208 Intermediate Writing* fulfill BSC's Explorations general education writing requirement.

- Most all BSC students will be placed into *EH 102 Seminar in Critical Thinking and Writing*. It's the standard starting point.
- Some students will be placed in *EH 208 Intermediate Writing*. This is based on AP English score of 5, IB English score of 6, ACT English score of 32 or higher, or SAT Writing score of 710 or higher.

# ACADEMIC ADVISING AT BSC:

- Faculty-only model
- No standalone professional advising office
- Pre-health is only specialized, dedicated advisor (secondary to academic advisor)
- Academic Advising is not single-focused (“take this class,” “you need...”)
- We advise across the curriculum in the first and second years.
- Students are strongly encouraged to choose an advisor in their major once they officially declare the major, usually by the end of the sophomore year.





# HOW ARE ADVISORS ASSIGNED?

- Faculty members serve as academic advisors.
- **First-year advisors represent all disciplines.** They may teach a course in which the student is enrolled, be an athletic liaison to the student's sport, teach in the student's academic area of interest, or they may simply enjoy advising first-year students. It is not necessary that the first-year advisor is in the student's major.
- **Transfer students are assigned to an advisor in their major.**
- Students may stay with their original academic advisor for the entire time at BSC, but are encouraged to change advisors once the major is declared. Having a good working relationship with your advisor is key.
- Students are required to meet with their academic advisor at least once a term, but usually several meetings take place prior to registration. Students will not be able to register without advisor approval.

**We look forward  
to welcoming your student  
to The Hilltop in the Fall!**

If you have any questions about the academic program at BSC, I am always happy to respond.

**KIM LEWIS**

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