

**THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS**  
**REVISED POLICY ON BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMMES**

**Preamble**

The College of The Bahamas is committed to preparing students to become productive and thoughtful citizens by offering a broad liberal arts education coupled with the development of competency in fields of special interest. By providing both disciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches to the pursuit of knowledge and the solving of problems, The College, through its curricular and extra-curricular programmes, encourages students to think critically and creatively and to express their thoughts in an articulate and literate manner, using a range of media. It is through such programmes that students build the capacity to respond to multiple perspectives in an ever-changing world and embrace a greater sense of national identity and their responsibilities as citizens of The Bahamas and the Caribbean. Additionally, The College of The Bahamas, with graduate and professional programmes, offers advanced education responsive to evolving societal needs. Thus students, with the support of faculty, laboratory, library, studio and field experiences, will be exposed firsthand to ways in which knowledge is discovered, applied and extended.

**1.0 Regulations for the Approval of Bachelor Degree Programmes**

- 1.1 Application for Approval in Principle shall be made to the Academic Board's Standing Subcommittee for Review of New Academic Programmes and shall consist of the following:
  - 1.1.1 A rationale for the programme indicating its feasibility and sustainability and projected student intake
  - 1.1.2 The programme structure, detailing the courses to be included under General Education Requirements, Major (and Minor where applicable) Requirements and Elective Requirements, together with the total credits allocated
  - 1.1.3 An implementation plan which indicates the following
    - 1.1.3.1 the sequence of courses
    - 1.1.3.2 current and required faculty and staff and training needs
    - 1.1.3.3 existing and required resources and facilities
  - 1.1.4 Catalogue descriptions of courses in the Major (and Minor sequence as applicable)
  - 1.1.5 A list of entrance or upgrading requirements additional to The College's minimum entrance requirements

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- 1.1.6 An indication of costing and funding for the programme
- 1.1.7 The programme review requirements (See 6)
- 1.2 Normally, the Application for Approval in Full must be submitted through the Academic Board's Standing Subcommittee for Review of New Academic Programmes to the Academic Board one year prior to the projected implementation date and shall consist of the following:
  - 1.2.1 The programme structure, detailing the courses to be included under General Education Requirements, Major (and Minor where applicable) Requirements and Electives, together with the total credits allocated
  - 1.2.2 Course Proposal Forms with Detailed Course Outlines of courses in the Major (and Minor sequence as applicable)
  - 1.2.3 The Student Advisement Form/Contract of Study
  - 1.2.4 Confirmation of costing and funding for the programme

## **2.0 Qualifications for Faculty Teaching at the Bachelor Degree Level**

- 2.1 Faculty and other personnel
  - 2.1.1 The minimum qualification for teaching at the Bachelor's level is a Master's Degree or equivalent credential in the subject area.
  - 2.1.2 Persons without this qualification but with a proven record of exemplary performance in the subject area may be approved to teach in the programme.

## **3.0 Bachelor Degree Programmes**

The College offers Bachelor Degree programmes through the Faculty of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies, the Faculty of Education and Liberal Arts and the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences.

## **4.0 Bachelor Degree Programme Requirements**

- 4.1 To earn a Bachelor Degree, students must complete a minimum of 120 credits with a Major and cumulative GPA of at least 2.0.
- 4.2 Of these 120 credits, students must complete
  - 4.2.1 at least 50% of the Major area as well as 50% of the overall programme at C.O.B.

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4.2.2 60 credits at the Upper Level, 45 of which must be in residence at C.O.B.

4.3 To satisfy programme requirements, a course may only be used once to fulfil a Major, General Education or Elective requirement. A single course may not be used to fulfil more than one of the foregoing categories.

4.4 Bachelor Degree Programme Credit Distribution

The credit requirements for the four-year degree will be in the following ranges with a maximum programme credit range of 120 - 140:

**Major**

Categories	Lower Level Credit Range (100 & 200 levels)	Upper Level Credit Range (300 & 400 levels)	Programme Credit Range
<b>General Education (GE)</b>	27 – 30	9 – 12	36-39
<b>Major</b>	24 – 34	42–56	66-80
<b>Elective (ELEC)</b>	9 – 12	9 - 12	18-21

**Major-Minor**

Categories	Lower Level Credit Range (100 & 200 levels)	Upper Level Credit Range (300 & 400 levels)	Programme Credit Range
<b>General Education (GE)</b>	27-30	9-12	36-39
<b>Major</b>	18-24	24-30	48-56
<b>Minor</b>	9-12	9-12	18-24
<b>Elective (ELEC)</b>	9-12	9-12	18-21

4.5 General Education Requirement (36-39 credits)

The College of The Bahamas' General Education undergraduate curriculum is multidisciplinary in perspective. It seeks to broaden students' knowledge, foster lifelong learning and nurture a reflective and analytic ability through the examination of underlying values and controversial issues. Students become equipped with a range of skills that are honed through nine strands including Literacy, Numeracy, Foreign Language, Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Physical Education/Health/Nutrition, Computer Literacy and Student Development.

4.5.1 Courses used to fulfil the General Education requirement contain Bahamian Content. In other words, emphasis is placed on an understanding of Bahamian culture, society and/or environment. They also contain at least two of the following components:

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4.5.1.1 Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary: Emphasis is placed on integrating knowledge, languages and methodologies across the disciplines.

4.5.1.2 Literacy: Emphasis is placed on the honing of oral and written communication skills, critical thinking and problem solving.

4.5.1.3 Numeracy: Emphasis is placed on the mastery of analytic and computational skills.

4.5.2 To fulfil the General Education component requirement, students must complete a minimum of 36 credits. Of these 36 credits, students must complete at least 27 credits at the lower level and 9 at the upper level. The distribution of these credits is indicated in the table below.

**General Education Credit Distribution**

STRANDS	LOWER LEVEL	UPPER LEVEL	TOTAL
Literacy (College level English)	6	3	9
Numeracy (College level Math)	3	0	3
Foreign Language (Proficiency in a second language)	6	0	6
Humanities (Fine Arts, Cultural Studies, Literature, Communication, Philosophy, Linguistics)	3	0	3
Social Sciences (Anthropology, History, Political Science, Sociology, Religious Studies, Psychology, Civics and Society, Theology, Social Work)	3	3	6
Natural Sciences (Logic, Biology, Chemistry, Agriculture, Geology, Oceanography, Geography, Environmental Studies, Physics)	3	3	6
Physical Education/Health/Nutrition (modular)	2	0	2
Computer Literacy	1	0	1
Student Development	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL (minimum)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>

4.6 Major Requirement (66-80 credits)

4.6.1 An integral part of the Bachelor Degree Programme is a concentration of coursework in an academic discipline or area. The course and credit requirements and pre-requisites for each major are outlined in the Student Advisement Form/Contract of Study for the programme area.

4.6.2 To fulfil the Major requirement, students must complete a minimum of 66 credits with a GPA of at least 2.0 or as stipulated by specific programmes. Of these 66 credits, students must

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complete at least 24 credits at the lower level and 42 at the upper level.

4.7 Major-Minor Requirement (66-80)

4.7.1 To fulfil the Major requirement within a Major-Minor, students must complete a minimum of 48 credits with a GPA of at least 2.0 or as stipulated by specific programmes. Of these 48 credits, students must complete at least 18 credits at the lower level and 24 at the upper level.

4.7.2 To fulfil the Minor requirement within a Major-Minor, students must complete a minimum of 18 credits with a GPA of at least 2.0 or as stipulated by specific programmes. Of these 18 credits, students must complete at least 9 credits at the lower level and 9 at the upper level.

4.8 Elective Requirement (18-21 credits)

4.8.1 To fulfil the Elective requirement, students must complete at least 18 credits. Of these 18 credits at least 9 must be at the lower level and at least 9 at the upper level.

4.8.2 Students choose the courses that will fulfil the Elective requirement. These courses are an entirely free choice by the students as the purpose of this requirement is to give students the opportunity to explore areas of interest that fall outside of the Major (and/or Minor) area of concentration.

4.8.3 However, an Academic Unit may petition Academic Board to use electives as speciality strands to fulfil requirements in a professional programme. These courses must form a coherent unit within the programme. Professional programmes are those which lead to certification or licensure.

4.9 Grade Point Average Requirement

4.9.1 To fulfil the grade point average requirement, students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0.

4.9.2 Students must also obtain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in the Major (and Minor if applicable) concentration of study.

4.9.3 Specific academic programmes may require a higher minimum pass in the Major concentration as approved by the Academic Board.

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4.10 Enrolment Status

4.10.1 Full-time status is maintained in the Fall and Spring Semesters when students register for 12 - 18 credits. Students who wish to take more than 18 credits per semester must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must get permission from the relevant Academic Dean.

4.10.2 Part-time status is maintained in the Fall and Spring Semesters when students register for a maximum of 9 credits. Students who wish to take more than 9 credits per semester must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must get permission from the relevant Academic Dean.

4.10.3 During each of the Summer Sessions, full-time and part-time students may register for 6 – 9 credits. Students who wish to take more than 9 credits per session must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must get permission from the relevant Academic Dean.

4.11 Period of Candidacy

4.11.1 A full-time student is allowed a maximum of six years to complete a Bachelor Degree Programme.

4.11.2 A part-time student is allowed a maximum of ten years to complete a Bachelor Degree Programme.

**5.0 Length of Bachelor Degree Programme**

5.1 Normally, the programme shall constitute four years of continuous study with the final award of a Bachelor's Degree. Approval may be granted by the Academic Board upon petition by a School for the conferral of an intermediate award of an Associate's Degree in select programmes.

**6.0 Programme Review Requirements**

6.1 The purpose of the programme review is to identify those areas of the programme that can be revised so as to improve its effectiveness and acceptability. The review should be designed as a continuous monitoring process which will identify existing or potential problems that may contribute to the failure of all or part of the programme.

6.2 Specific areas to be monitored include the following:

6.2.1 Logistics, or the adequacy of resources and facilities

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- 6.2.2 Faculty and staff performance
  - 6.2.3 Organisational deficiencies
  - 6.2.4 Relevance of the programme to training needs
  - 6.2.5 Admissions and graduations, including the compilation of statistics and profiles on students at entry, and the performance of both graduates and non-graduates
- 6.3 Programme review shall be in accordance with the procedures approved by the Academic Board and administered through the Office of Academic Affairs.
- 6.4 Programmes where there is an affiliation or articulation with another institution should identify one or more persons of internationally acclaimed academic standing in the discipline to serve as an external reviewer.
- 6.5 Every programme shall include a review plan in its Approval in Principle; shall provide reports with particular attention given to the areas identified in 6.2 (above); and shall be subject to reappraisal and re-approval by the Academic Board at the end of each 5-year period.
- 6.6 Responsibility for programme review lies with the respective School, supported by the Planning and Development Office.