ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

A. Semester System

The Ohio State University operates on the Semester System. The academic year is divided into semesters. Autumn and Spring semesters typically have 14 weeks of classes followed by a week for final exams. Summer semester is unique, consisting of a May session, a 7–week session (followed by exams), and a 12–week session (followed by exams).

B. Types of Courses

General Education (GE) – Every student must complete a body of course work that assures a broad acquaintance with the basic areas of academic study. To meet GE requirements, credit hours must be completed from the following areas of academic study:

- Writing and Related Skills.
- Quantitative and Logical Skills.
- Natural Sciences.
- Social Sciences.
- Arts & Humanities.
- Global Studies.
- Issues of the Contemporary World.

Some majors also require completion of a foreign language sequence. Students should consult their specific college or school publications or academic advisor for a list of general education requirements pertaining to their major. The aim of the General Education Curriculum is to foster the ability to:

- Write and speak clearly and precisely.
- Read and listen critically and with comprehension.
- Engage in careful, logical thinking and critical analysis.

You must earn at least a “D” in a course for it to meet a GE requirement. Courses taken on a pass/non–pass basis cannot be used to meet GE requirements. Consult with your specific program information and academic advisor for details.

Prerequisites – A “prerequisite” is a course that must be completed before taking another course. For example, Math 1075 is a prerequisite for Chemistry 1101. This information is contained in the online course catalog, accessible through BuckeyeLink.

Major Courses – Students select an area of study or major as their degree program. Each major has a specific list of required courses necessary to complete to earn a degree.

Electives – Courses taken that do not fulfill requirements, either GE or major, are considered electives. Students may choose from a variety of courses or additional courses in their major area to complete the necessary credit hours for graduation.
Developmental Courses – Courses are available to prepare students for the beginning levels of college math and English. These courses are taught at levels below the first college levels in these areas. Math 1050 and 1075 and English 1109 are excellent preparation for academic success at the beginning college courses; however, most majors cannot count the credit hours for these courses for graduation.

C. Honors Program/Classes

Beginning with your first semester at The Ohio State University, you will be eligible to enroll in Honors classes if you are looking for an extra challenge. You do not have to be a part of the Honors Program to take Honors level classes. The Honors classroom climate is stimulating and conducive to learning. Honors courses encourage students to become active in the learning process, to think critically and creatively, to participate in class, and to express their thoughts clearly both orally and in writing. An “H” following the course number (Geography 1900H) designates classes limited to Honors students. An “E” following the course number (Psychology 1100E) designates classes that have an honors component alongside of the regular course. Students who are part of the Honors Program benefit from an environment of academic enrichment, special grants and scholarships, individual and personalized attention, priority scheduling, personalized attention, and diverse academic opportunities. Honors classes and other Honors options are offered in many subject areas and provide opportunities for research experiences, one–on–one work with faculty, priority scheduling, and development and presentation of an Honors thesis.

The Honors Program is by application only. Students interested in the Honors Program are encouraged to contact the Honors Program Director on the Marion campus, Dr. Chris Daddis (740–725–6109; daddis.1@osu.edu) for more information.

D. Colleges within the University

The Ohio State University is divided into specific colleges: College of Engineering; College of Arts and Sciences; Fisher College of Business; John Glenn School of Public Affairs, etc. Many colleges within the university are competitive in nature, meaning you must meet certain criteria, apply, and be accepted before taking classes within the college. Students pursuing competitive majors may begin their college career in University Exploration. Once you have completed the courses required by the college of your choice, you must apply to be admitted into that college. Your academic advisor will advise you regarding courses necessary and timing of application.

- **University Exploration (EXP)** – EXP is designed to assist incoming and current Ohio State students who are undecided on their major. Many students remain in Exploration until admitted to the college of their major.

- **Applying to your College** – Many majors require students to apply to their college for admission. Education, Nursing, and Human Ecology are a few of these colleges within the university. Each college has a list of requirements for admission that include specific courses, GPA, and number of credit hours. All students wanting to change to the Columbus campus must meet the specific requirements to be admitted to the college that offers the major they intend to pursue.
• **Selective Admission** – Due to the rigors of the curriculum and space available in the program, some majors have selective admissions that require high GPAs, specific courses, etc. Usually applications for these majors are accepted once or twice a year with specific deadlines for submitting applications. Fisher College of Business and the College of Nursing are two examples of colleges with selective admission.

**E. Majors**

From accounting to zoology, over 170 majors are available at The Ohio State University. Students at Ohio State Marion can begin course work for any one of these bachelor degree programs. A complete listing of majors is available at majors.osu.edu.

Students come to college with varying levels of commitment to their major:

- 100% certain.
- Almost decided on a major.
- Deciding between two or more majors.
- Exploring interests and options.

If you are still deciding or re–deciding on a major, you are not alone. Some students have well–defined plans for their majors and careers, whereas many students have a variety of questions and concerns about choosing a major. It is not unusual for students to change majors three to five times prior to graduation; however, prolonging a decision upon a major or re–deciding can extend time necessary to complete a degree.

The following majors may be completed in their entirety at Ohio State Marion:

- **Biology** – A Bachelor of Science Degree (B.S.) or Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Biology is available on the Marion Campus. This major prepares students to pursue graduate degree programs in life science areas, as well as provide students the opportunity to become certified science teachers for grades K–12. Those who are considering working in the medical field are able to complete all undergraduate degree requirements at Ohio State Marion. By offering a major in Biology at Ohio State Marion, we are making careers in biological and biomedical disciplines accessible to more students.

- **Business** – A Bachelor of Science Degree (B.S.) in Business Administration from Ohio State’s Fisher College of Business can be earned on the Marion Campus. This general business degree, available exclusively on regional campuses, has a broad business foundation rather than a specialized major in only one area of business. Students are exposed to all areas of business including accounting, marketing, finance, and management. The program focuses on the needs of small to medium–sized businesses most prevalent in the Marion community.

- **Education in Early and Middle Childhood** – The undergraduate degree in early or middle childhood education (Bachelor of Science in Education Degree or B.S.Ed.) emphasizes course work from a wide variety of disciplines. Students develop basic knowledge of the teaching/learning process and choose a specialty in two areas of concentration from child and family studies, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, or reading and language arts.
• **English** – A wide range of English courses is offered leading to the completion of a Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.) in English. Within the program, students may opt to concentrate on general writing, fictional writing, or American or British literature.

• **History** – Majoring in History at Ohio State (and earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree – B.A.) allows students the opportunity for advanced study across the spectrum of time and in different geographical areas. The history major includes a focus on one geographical area, and distribution requirements with the selection of courses deal with the human experience both before and after 1750.

• **Psychology** – A Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology (B.A. or B.S.) prepares students for entry into many career fields such as administration and management, business and industry, social work, health services, marketing and public relations, personnel, laboratory work, sales, teaching, or technical writing. Psychology is the number one requested major on university campuses because of its versatility.

• **Nursing** (R.N. to B.S.N. Option) – This program enables registered nurses (R.N.) who have completed an Associate Degree in Nursing from an accredited school to complete a bachelor of science degree in nursing (B.S.N.), building on the knowledge and skills that an R.N. brings to the educational experience.

• **Social Work** (B.S.S.W.) – The Bachelor of Science in Social Work Program prepares students to assume beginning professional roles as direct service practitioners in social welfare organizations and lays the foundation for further social work education at the graduate level. The major is built upon a sequence of courses that provides a strong liberal arts perspective and features social work courses designed to enable the development of a common base of skills in social policy/program analysis, human behavior, diversity, social work practice, and social work research.

**Double Majors** – Students may choose to pursue two majors in different subject areas. To double major, all requirements for each major must be met. In some areas, courses may overlap with the GE requirements where appropriate.

**Dual Degrees and Second Degree Programs** – Some students wish to receive more than one degree. This may be accomplished while pursuing the first degree (dual degree) or by returning after previously finishing one degree (second degree). Courses cannot overlap from either major. All degree requirements for the additional degree, including GE requirements not required for the first degree, must be completed.

**Personalized Study Program** (PSP) – If you cannot find a particular Ohio State major that suits your academic and career goals, you can speak with an advisor about doing a Personalized Study Program (PSP). With a 3.0 minimum GPA, approval of a faculty advisor, and the approval of an Arts and Sciences Dean, you can create a special major to focus on your particular goals. More information is available at www.ascadvising.osu.edu/programs/psp.

**F. Minors**

The university offers over 100 minors. Students may have more than one minor; however, minors are not required for graduation – except for students in FAES. Minors cannot be earned in the same subject area as the student’s major. Courses for a minor may not be used for the major.
Grades of “C−” or higher must be earned in courses for minors. Minor courses cannot be taken pass/non-pass. A complete list can be found at http://ascadvising.osu.edu/programs/minors/list.

Improve your writing and add valuable credentials to your resume by completing coursework for the Minor in Professional Writing and doing an internship in professional writing. The minor and the internship can supplement any undergraduate major. For more information, see http://english.marion.ohio-state.edu/minor.htm.

G. Degrees

**Associate of Arts Degree** (A.A.) – The Associate of Arts Degree is available to students who have taken a minimum of 15 credit hours on a regional campus. Candidates for the A.A. degree must complete a minimum of 60 hours with 33 of these credit hours from specific areas on the GE course list. The A.A. is a general two–year degree and in no way interferes with earning a Bachelor’s degree. This degree is awarded each Spring at the Annual Academic Recognition Program.

**Bachelor of Arts Degree** (B.A.) – Most B.A. degrees require a minimum of 121 credit hours and completion of all requirements in GEs and the major area of study. Bachelor of Arts degrees are undergraduate degrees.

**Bachelor of Science Degree** (B.S.) – These degrees require 121 or more credit hours depending upon the major. Generally the B.S. degree requires more and higher courses in mathematics and natural sciences.

**Bachelor of Fine Arts** (B.F.A.) – Students in the College of the Arts may pursue a B.F.A. degree that includes a course of study specializing in a specific area of the arts such as Photography, Ceramics, or Glass, as well as Art, Music, Dance, etc.

**Graduate Degrees** – Master’s degrees are offered in most fields and may also be academic or professional in orientation. In many fields, the master’s degree may be the only professional degree needed for employment in the field. This is the case in fine arts (M.F.A.), library science (M.L.S.), and social work (M.S.W.).

Traditionally, graduate education has involved acquiring and communicating knowledge gained through original research in a particular academic field. The highest earned academic degree, which requires the pursuit of original research, is the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). In contrast, professional training stresses the practical application of knowledge and skills, for example, in the fields of business, law, and medicine. At the doctoral level, degrees in these areas include the Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.), the Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.), and the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.).