

Degrees Offered at UWSP

(These degree definitions will go into effect with the new general education program.)

UWSP offers four distinct baccalaureate degrees and an associate's degree. Below, each degree is generally defined. The requirements for the associate's degree are the same for all students at UWSP. For baccalaureate degrees, individual academic programs have the flexibility to determine which degrees are offered through their major and the specific requirements. Academic programs have the responsibility to do so within the framework of the general definitions below and in support of UWSP's general education mission to equip students with the knowledge and skills to facilitate intellectual and personal growth, pursue their advanced studies, and improve the world in which they live.

The requirements below are common to all baccalaureate degrees at UWSP:

- Complete the General Education Program requirements
- Complete the requirements of a major
- Earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UWSP
- Earn at least 40 credits at the 300 level or above
- Earn a minimum of 120 credits
- Earn a minimum 2.0 gpa in credits attempted at UWSP
- Earn a minimum 2.0 gpa overall, including both UWSP and transfer credits

Each academic program will build on the foundation provided by the General Education curriculum by developing its own mission, goals, and program learning outcomes. In doing so, programs will comply with the following degree requirements, which must be assessed within each major:

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.): The B.A. is a liberal arts degree intended to develop skills and talents essential to succeeding in a global society. It combines study of the arts, humanities, historical perspectives, and the natural and social sciences with advanced critical inquiry and an in-depth knowledge in an academic discipline (major). The program develops cultural, social, and political literacy, including the abilities to communicate effectively and clearly in writing and in speech, and to understand on a basic level a world language other than one's own.* In so doing, it fosters the ability to understand and actively participate in discourses both within and beyond the field of the student's major (such as a minor or second major), and it promotes engagement with cultural, social, and political difference.

* A two-semester sequence of university entry level world language courses (101, 102) is required. The requirement may be fulfilled through equivalent coursework or other language acquisition as demonstrated through a test out policy (including Native American languages and American Sign Language). Fully enrolled UWSP students whose native language is not English and who can document formal study of their native language may use English as a means of fulfilling this requirement.

Bachelor of Science (B.S.): The B.S. is a liberal arts degree intended to develop skills and talents essential to professional work. It combines study of the arts, humanities, historical perspectives, and the natural and social sciences with advanced critical inquiry and an in-depth knowledge in a specific academic discipline (major). The program develops an understanding of empirical analysis, scientific methodology and protocols, and mathematics and quantitative techniques. In so doing, it equips students for continued engagement in professional research within the chosen field.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) and Bachelor of Music (B.M.): The B.F.A. and B.M. are professional degrees focusing intensive study and practice in the fine arts, performing arts, and design fields through a specific academic discipline (major). Essential artistic and intellectual development is achieved through building practical experience, repertoire, and mastery within the chosen discipline and through critical inquiry into cultural, historical, and technical aspects relevant to the defined profession. Standards for the B.F.A. and B.M. are established by national accreditation agencies and implemented in the major at the department level.

Associate Degree (A.D.): The A.D. is a liberal arts foundational degree for many college majors and is confirmation of an important accomplishment on the path to a bachelor's degree. In order to meet the four program outcomes of the General Education Program: demonstrate the critical thinking, quantitative, and communication skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing global society; demonstrate a broad knowledge of the physical, social, and cultural worlds as well as the methods by which this knowledge is produced; recognize that responsible global citizenship involves personal accountability, social equity, and environmental sustainability; and be able to apply this knowledge and skills, working in interdisciplinary ways to solve problems, the completion of the UWSP General Education Program, except for the Communication in the Major and the Capstone Experience in the Major, is required.

The following requirements apply to all associate degrees at UWSP:

- Complete the General Education Program requirements, except for Communication in the Major and Capstone in the Major
- Earn a minimum of 15 credits in residence at UWSP
- Earn a minimum of 60 credits.
- Meet the UW System A.D. guidelines.
- Earn a minimum 2.0 gpa in credits attempted at UWSP
- Earn a minimum 2.0 gpa overall, including both UWSP and transfer credits