

GS 399 INFORMATION SHEET

The Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) degree is a multidisciplinary degree geared to adult learners. BLS students choose at least 2 broad areas in which to concentrate their studies (Humanities, Professional Studies, Social Science, or Math/Science). Students are required to study at least 4 different subjects within these areas.

The final class in the BLS program is GS 399 or the Senior Project. In this project, students research a topic, and write a sizeable research paper. The research topic must encompass the various disciplines the student has studied in the BLS program. In effect, the Senior Project serves to synthesize the knowledge and skills the student has acquired through the program.

Students enrolled in GS 399 need a faculty member approved by the chair of their department to serve as a faculty advisor. The faculty member chosen should have expertise in the area of the student's research. Students should ask faculty members to serve as their advisor the semester **before** they are to take GS 399. In addition, students should have identified their research topic **before** speaking to a faculty member. The details of the research and paper are to be agreed upon by the student and faculty advisor.

Once a faculty member agrees to work with a student on GS 399, both student and faculty advisor must meet to determine the specifics of the project. Subjects discussed could include: periodic contact between student/advisor to assess progress, suggested reading lists for research, criteria for grading, and specifics of the paper including format, number of references, paper length, etc. This paper will represent an entire semester's work, so it is suggested it be at least 25-40 pages in length.

It is recommended that the student and faculty advisor complete the **GS 399 Senior Project Application Form** at this meeting. The specifics of the student's project will be listed on this form. Students are responsible for bringing the form to the meeting. Once complete, the form must be signed by both student and faculty advisor. This form is then forwarded to Dr. Maggie Wills who submits the form to the registrar. The registrar then creates a CRN for the course at which point the student registers for the class and pays tuition.

Faculty members with questions or concerns regarding either the Senior Project or the student should contact the BLS Program Director, Dr. Maggie Wills (mwills@fairfield.edu) for assistance.