

APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES, BAAS

Program Description

All Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences tracks are designed to seamlessly incorporate an associate degree and/or vocational-technical credit from an accredited institution of higher learning into a bachelor's degree. The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) is a unique program that offers students the opportunity to apply up to 42 vocational or technical credits towards the completion of a bachelor's degree. The program tracks are designed to meet the needs of students in the region with vocational-technical experience who seek to expand their knowledge, skills, and career opportunities in a variety of fields. With eight different tracks to choose from, students are able to tailor their degree to meet their career goals.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- understand concepts and practices within community-accepted standards relevant to each track;
- apply teamwork and communication skills to develop successful careers in their fields;
- apply professional and ethical awareness in the practices of their fields.

General Requirements

Requirements	Credit Hours
First-Year Seminars (when applicable) ¹	0-2
Vocational/Technical Credit	3-42
Core Curriculum Program (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/undergraduate/university-college/programs/core-curriculum-program/)	42
Professional Track Curriculum	24-27
Electives as needed to fulfill university graduation minimum requirements	
Total Credit Hours	69-113

¹ Full-time, first time in college students are required to take the first-year seminars.

- UNIV 1101 First-Year Seminar I (1 sch)
- UNIV 1102 First-Year Seminar II (1 sch)

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Full-time, First-year Students		
UNIV 1101	First-Year Seminar I	1
UNIV 1102	First-Year Seminar II	1
Vocational/Technical Credit		
Transfer of Vocational/Technical credit hours		3-42

Core Curriculum Program	
University Core Curriculum	42
Professional Track Curriculum	
Select one of the following Tracks:	24-27
Applied Leadership (p. 1)	
Early Childhood Education (p. 2)	
Community and Mental Health (p. 2)	
Criminal Justice (p. 2)	
Environmental & Occupational Safety/Emergency Response (p. 3)	
Information Technology (p.)	
Legal Studies (p. 3)	
Technical Communication (p. 4)	
University Electives	
Select electives with BAAS Advisor to meet minimum of 120 hours ¹	
Total Hours	71-113

¹ Students must consult with the BAAS Advisor to select appropriate electives to meet graduation requirements. All BAAS students must earn a minimum of 120 semester credit hours, 36 of which are upper-division courses taken at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

* Online offering

^ Blended offering

Applied Leadership

The BAAS Applied Leadership degree assists students with identifying leadership traits on an individual basis to leadership of an organization. In this degree, students will not only examine different styles of leadership, but also the far-reaching implications leadership can have on organizations, communities and regions. They will also learn how leadership styles can uniquely impact a crisis. Students will gain hands-on practical experience in addition to classroom learning and will work with community agencies to solve real life problems. Students will learn how to present their classroom-based knowledge to the community through a variety of modalities, including written, oral and digital.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
COMM 1321	Business and Professional Communication	3
	or COMM 3350 Leadership	
COMM 3330	Persuasion	3
COMM 4345	Intercultural Communication	3
COMM 4350	Organizational Communication	3
POLS 3341	Introduction to Public Administration	3
UNIV 4350	University Studies Capstone	3
Designated Electives		
Select 9 hours of electives from the following:		9
COMM 3311	Nonverbal Communication	
COMM 4360	International Leadership	
ENGL 3379	Writing for the Web	
ENGL 3380	Visual Rhetoric	
MGMT 3310	Principles of Management	
SOCI 4315	Complex Organizations	
Total Hours		27

* Online offering

Early Childhood Education

The BAAS Early Childhood Education track is designed for students who are, or wish to become, child-care providers and seek additional qualifications. In the state of Texas, it is not necessary to hold a bachelor's degree to be child-care worker in a day care setting. However, if you wish to provide care for more than 6 children in your home, or if you wish to be a Director of a licensed child care center, one of the minimum education requirements is a bachelor's degree with 12 college credit hours in child development and 6 college credit hours in management. The BAAS Early Childhood Education track provides the opportunity to not only receive a bachelor's degree and fulfill the child development requirement, but it has enough room in electives that a student can easily add in the management courses as well. In addition, all licensed child-care centers must provide their workers with annual professional development in child growth and development, age appropriate curriculum, and serving children with special needs. With a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, students can explore becoming a trainer and leading workshops for child-care centers.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
ECED 3324	Child Development	3
ECED 3380	Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Education	3
EDUC 3311	School and Society [^]	3
READ 3310	Principles and Practices of Early Reading Instruction	3
SPED 4310	Students with Exceptionalities [*]	3
UNIV 4350	University Studies Capstone	3
Designated Electives		
Select 9 hours of electives from the following:		9
BIEM 4345	LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT	
BIEM 4357	METHODS OF TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE	
ECED 4350	EC-6 Social Studies Curriculum	
READ 3320	Principles and Practices of Reading Instruction	
READ 3352	Content Area Reading for Elementary Students	
READ 3380	Children's and Adolescents' Literature	
Total Hours		27

* Online offering

[^] Blended offering

Community and Mental Health

The Community and Mental Health track is designed for those students who wish to seek entry level positions in social service agencies or in child or elderly care facilities. It is also designed for those hoping to further their education in graduate school, as students wishing to provide mental health counseling in the state of Texas must be licensed. Graduate schools will provide the coursework, internship, and practicum opportunities necessary for licensure.

For those students who wish to work as an Adult Protective Service Worker, a Child Care Licensing Inspector or a Residential Child Care Licensing Inspector, a bachelor's degree is required. A bachelor's degree

meets one of the minimum education requirements for a Child Protective Service worker.

Students who would like to work as a Nursing Facility Administrator must have at least a bachelor's degree in any subject, plus 15 hours in long term care administration or equivalent.

The BAAS Community and Mental Health degree allows students to not only earn a bachelor's degree, but also has several electives available for students, which can be used to tailor the degree to meet the needs of a specific career, graduate school or agency.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
PSYC 3361	Psychology of Personality [*]	3
PSYC 3363	Abnormal Psychology [*]	3
SOCI 2319	Social Psychology	3
SOCW 2361	Introduction to Social Work	3
SOCW 3310	Approaches to Social Welfare	3
UNIV 4350	University Studies Capstone	3
Designated Electives		
Select 6 hours of electives from the following:		6
CRIJ 3325	Community?Based Corrections	
SOCI 3312	Racial and Ethnic Relations	
SOCI 3340	Sociology of the Family	
	or PSYC 231 Lifespan Developmental Psychology	
SOCW 3320	SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY	
Total Hours		24

* Online offering

Criminal Justice

The BAAS Criminal Justice track is designed for those students who wish to work in law enforcement, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or Texas State Parks and Wildlife. It also provides a solid foundation for students who are interested in pursuing a further degree in a law related area.

In order to be a police officer in Texas, you do not need to have a bachelor's degree; however, many of the police departments require their officers to have a minimum of 45-60 college credit hours in order to qualify for entry level position. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, jobs for police and sheriffs in Texas are projected to grow by 16% over the next 5 years.

Students who hope to work for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a Parole Officer and those students interested in a career as a Game Warden with Texas State Parks and Wildlife must have a bachelor's degree.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
UNIV 4350	University Studies Capstone	3
CRIJ 3325	Community?Based Corrections	3
CRIJ 4345	Research Methods in Criminal Justice	3
CRIJ 3302	Police and Society	3
	or CRIJ 4351 POLICE SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT	
CRIJ 4312	Law and Evidence	3
	or CRIJ 4313 Criminal Procedure	

CRIJ 4320	Offender Rehabilitation	3
or CRIJ 4321	American Prisons and Prisoners	
CRIJ 4331	Juvenile Delinquency	3
or CRIJ 4335	Criminology	
Total Hours		21

Environmental & Occupational Safety/Emergency Response

The Environmental and Occupational Safety/Emergency Response track prepares students who plan to work as environmental safety officers, management of workplace safety issues, or in an emergency response field. Students who wish to work for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality should be aware that a large majority of their jobs require a bachelor's degree. For those who plan to move directly into the oilfields or refinery work after earning their bachelor's, this track provides students with professional certifications meeting industry standards.

In ESCI 4370, students receive 4 professional certifications (ICS 100, ICS 700, HAZWOPER, and HAZWOPER Supervisor.) The course satisfies the 40-hour off-site employee training requirements for U.S. OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) regulations as specified in 29 CFR 1910.120 as well as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) and Section 126 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). This course qualifies students to support, and supervise, emergency response operations at the local, state, and federal level.

Students receive 3 professional certifications in ESCI 4430 (ICS 100, ICS 700, (or ICS 200 and 800)) in addition to the 40-hour training HAZWOPER for Oil Spill Response. The course meets the off-site training requirements for U.S. OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) regulations as specified in 29 CFR 1910.120 and qualifies students to support oil spill response operations at the local, state, and federal level.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
CHEM 4490	Special Topics	4
or ESCI 4490	Selected Topics	
COMM 4335	Crisis Communication	3
ESCI 3202	Professional Skills	2
ESCI 4301	Environmental Regulations	3
UNIV 4350	University Studies Capstone	3
Designated Electives		
Select 6-8 hours of electives from the following:		6-8
BIOL 2421	Microbiology	
CHEM 4443	Environmental Chemistry	
ESCI 3443	Environmental Biology	
ESCI 4320	Environmental Health	
ESCI 4498	Internship in Environmental Science	
GEOL 3443	Environmental Geology	
GISC 1470	Geospatial Systems I	
POLS 3341	Introduction to Public Administration	
Total Hours		21-23

Information Technology

The BAAS Information Technology track provides students with a broad understanding of basic computer languages, systems, software and

hardware, giving them a firm foundation for a variety of careers such as personal computer technician, network administrator, database manager, information security technician, and computer technology manager within commercial, industrial, educational and government organizations.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
COSC 1435	Introduction to Problem Solving with Computers I	4
MISY 2305	Computer Applications in Business *	3
COSC 2348	Introduction to Scripting	3
COSC 3336	Introduction to Database Systems	3
or MISY 3330	Database Management	
UNIV 4350	University Studies Capstone	3
Area of Specialization (9-11 semester hours):		9-11
<i>Programming</i>		
COSC 1436	INTRODUCTION TO PROBLEM SOLVING WITH COMPUTERS II	
COSC 2437	Data Structures	
Approved COSC upper-division elective 3 sem. hrs.		
<i>Information Security</i>		
COSC 2465	Linux Systems	
COSC 2466	Network Systems	
COSC 3372	Network Security	
<i>Project Management</i>		
MGMT 3310	Principles of Management	
COSC 3301	Cyber Security	
Approved MISY upper-division elective 3 sem. hrs.		
Total Hours		25-27

* Online offering

^ Blended offering

Legal Studies

The BAAS Legal Studies track is designed for students who seek advancement in private law firms, federal or state governmental agencies, legal departments or corporations, banks, insurance companies, mortgage companies, law libraries, legal services/legal aid offices, and special interest groups or associations.

While it's true that in Texas a paralegal does not need to have a bachelor's degree, the State Bar of Texas recommends that attorneys hire paralegals who meet certain educational requirements, one of which is holding a bachelor's degree in any subject area. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports that Texas has the 4th highest employment level of paralegals and legal assistants in the United States.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
COMM 3330	Persuasion	3
CRIJ 4310	Constitutional Law	3
CRIJ 4312	Law and Evidence	3
CRIJ 4313	Criminal Procedure	3
POLS 3313	The Legislative Process	3
UNIV 4350	University Studies Capstone	3
Designated Electives		
Select 9 hours of the following:		9

BLAW 3310	Legal Environment of Business *
COMM 3311	Nonverbal Communication
ENGL 3378	Document Design and Publishing
POLS 3317	Judicial Politics
POLS 3351	U.S. Constitution and Federalism
Total Hours	27

* Online offering

Technical Communication

The BAAS Technical Communication track is designed for students who seek preparation for careers that demand excellent communication skills, such as working as an editor, organizing and presenting information, writing technical manuals for companies, providing text for social media, or writing copy for media, public relations, or advertising.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
COMM 4350	Organizational Communication	3
ENGL 3378	Document Design and Publishing	3
ENGL 3379	Writing for the Web	3
ENGL 4320	Professional Writing Workshop	3
ENGL 4321	Grants and Proposals	3
UNIV 4350	University Studies Capstone	3
Designated Electives		
Select 6 hours of the following:		6
COMM 1321	Business and Professional Communication	
COMM 4345	Intercultural Communication	
ENGL 3380	Visual Rhetoric	
Total Hours		24