What exactly is a BAAS degree and what can I do with it?

One of the first questions that many prospective students ask us when they contact our office is, “What exactly is a BAAS degree?” Students are also curious about what they can do with a BAAS degree.

The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree is a fully accredited four-year degree. What sets us apart from more traditional degrees is our ability to award credit for vocational and technical courses, and other applicable work and military experience.

The BAAS degree is primarily geared toward non-traditional students. The majority of our students are former military, active duty police officers, and students with a vocational/technical education background (welding, machining, EMT, etc.). We also have many students that have accumulated a lot of college hours and aren’t quite sure how to apply them to a degree.

The flexibility of our program extends to our students, as well. Your BAAS degree can be as broad or as specific as you choose. For example, a student may take primarily criminal justice-related courses while another student may take a wide range of classes that suit their professional and personal interests.

As to what you can do with a BAAS degree, the prospects are limitless. Individuals may use their BAAS degree to take advantage of promotional opportunities in their current career or use their degree as a springboard to do something new.

The most important element to a BAAS degree is the individual student. Each student has their own unique strengths and talents. Our students are seizing the opportunity to do amazing things!

BAAS on the move!

It is an exciting time to be part of the BAAS team! The BAAS program has officially moved from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to the College of Education for being so helpful in getting everything squared away for the big move and for their warm welcome. We look forward to being a part of the College of Education and to all of the great new things to come!

We are all so grateful to Dr. Capps and the College of Education for being so helpful in getting everything squared away for the big move and for their warm welcome. We look forward to being a part of the College of Education and to all of the great new things to come!

We are now located in the basement of the Ferguson building in Suite 102. Come by and say hello!

Also, be sure to note that our web address has also changed. You can now find the BAAS homepage at: http://www.mwsu.edu/academics/education/baas/
Success Strategies for Online Learning

Online learning has grown exponentially in the past ten years, not just here at Midwestern State University, but worldwide. The MSU BAAS program strives to meet the needs of online students because it is so important that our students be able to schedule their studies around work and family obligations.

Taking classes online can present special challenges and problems. Time management and technical difficulties are some of the most common issues.

Observe some of the following strategies to help make the most of your online classes:

- Read the syllabus carefully
- Log in to your course every day
- Plan weekly study times and stick to it—in other words, avoid procrastination
- Actively participate in online discussions with your instructor and classmates
- Ask for help or clarification
- Carefully double check your work before submitting it
- Turn in assignments on time
- Celebrate your successes

Have a great semester!

At A Glance: The Job Market

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

– Eleanor Roosevelt

It is no secret that today’s job market is extremely competitive. Recent research from the employment firm Burning Glass shows that a large percentage of employers now require that potential job candidates hold at least a bachelor’s degree.

Undoubtedly, employers want to hire the most competent and capable individuals. When employers review resumes from job candidates, those that hold a college degree tend to make an immediate impression. An individual who has earned a degree is more likely to be seen as reliable and goal oriented—two characteristics that are highly valued by employers.

Sometimes life gets in the way of our goals, but it is important not to lose sight and keep pushing forward. Even small pushes will ultimately lead you to your goals.

*Keep in mind that Midwestern State University has a fantastic Career Management Center that offers numerous valuable services to help students cultivate the skills they need to secure their dream job. Visit their website at: www.mwsu.edu/career/student-alumni

Writing Proficiency Exam

It is important that all students be aware of the Writing Proficiency Requirement (WPR). All MSU students are required to pass the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) or English 2113, Composition Skills, in order to graduate.

This fall the Writing Proficiency Exam will be given locally at MSU on September 30th and October 1st through the 4th. Find specific information on WPE dates here: http://www.mwsu.edu/academics/wpr/exam-dates

Distance students must also meet this requirement. Students who live more than 150 miles from Wichita Falls may take the exam via proctor at a testing or assessment center at a college/university in their area. Distance students can find additional information by following the Distance Education Students link on the Writing Proficiency Requirement website: http://www.mwsu.edu/academics/wpr

Remember to satisfy the Writing Proficiency Requirement between 60 and 90 hours to insure that your graduation plans won’t be delayed!