

Stony Brook Degree Requirements: Academic Graduation Requirements

The Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC)

Stony Brook University, like many American universities, has a liberal arts curriculum. This means that you need to take a few courses as part of your general education requirements that expose you to a wide variety of subjects so that you develop into a well-rounded individual.

While you will specialize by selecting one or more major areas of study and perhaps also a minor, the goal of your Stony Brook education is for you to have a broad range of skills and experiences that will prepare you for whatever career or life path you choose to pursue.

We want you to be a leader in that field. At Stony Brook, we recognize that the best scientists are inspired by art and literature, and the best artists and business-people are informed by trends in science and technology.

The Stony Brook Curriculum is our version of general education. Over the course of your four years at Stony Brook no matter what you major in, you will need to fulfill a series of objectives that will help you develop the broad range of skills and experiences you need to be a successful individual. They come in 4 big categories: "Demonstrate Versatility", "Explore Interconnectedness," "Pursue Deeper Understanding," and "Prepare for Life-Long Learning".

Before you graduate, you must "**Demonstrate Versatility**" or learn a little bit about a lot of different areas. These are good objectives to work on during your first year, so that you can explore subject or major areas and adjust to University life:

[Some courses may fulfill multiple requirements in the categories below.]

- Explore and Understand the Fine and Performing Arts (**ARTS**)
- Engage Global Issues (**GLO**)
- Address Problems using Critical Analysis & the Methods of the Humanities (**HUM**)
- Communicate in a Human Language Other than English (**LANG**)* *Note: CEAS majors are exempt from this requirement*
- Master Quantitative Problem Solving (**QPS**)
- Understand, Observe, and Analyze Human Behavior and the Structure and Functioning of Society (**SBS**)
- Study the Natural World (**SNW**)
- Understand Technology (**TECH**)
- Understand the Political, Economic, Social, and Cultural History of the United States (**USA**)
- Write Effectively in English (**WRT**)

If you went to a high school where your classes were primarily taught in another language, you may not need to complete the **LANG requirement.*

The second category, "**Explore Interconnectedness**," has one objective, Understand Relationships Between Technology and the Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences (**STAS**).

The third category, "**Pursue Deeper Understanding**," asks you to learn more in three of four different areas (designated by a + sign). These are usually 200 or 300-level courses and are typically taken after the freshman year. They build on courses you will take to fulfill the "**Demonstrate Versatility**" objectives. Take note that 200- to 400-level courses may have pre-requisites. These areas are:

- Experiential Learning (**EXP+**)
- Humanities and Fine Arts (**HFA+**)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (**SBS+**)
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (**STEM+**)

The last category, "**Prepare for Life-Long Learning**," is typically completed in your major. The objectives are:

[Note: Some courses from the categories above may satisfy these requirements.]

- Practice and Respect Critical and Ethical Reasoning **(CER)**
- Evaluate and Synthesize Researched Information **(ESI)**
- Speak Effectively before an Audience **(SPK)**
- Write Effectively within One's Discipline **(WRTD)**

For more detailed information regarding the Stony Brook Curriculum requirements visit: http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/degree_requirements/stonybrookcurriculum.php

Upper-Division Credits

All undergraduate students at Stony Brook must earn at least 39 credits in upper-division courses (numbered 300 and higher) to graduate. Courses taken for a major, minor, or to fulfill an SBC objective can also apply toward the upper-division requirement. Some upper-division credits may be earned through courses transferred from other colleges based upon individual evaluation by Academic and Transfer Advising Services.

Credit Hours

You must earn a minimum of

- 120 credits—Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science (BA or BS)
- 127 credits—BA in Journalism
- 128 credits—BE in Engineering

You must complete at least 100 credits with a letter grade. Developmental courses (e.g., MAP 101 and 103) do not count as credit toward your degree. Repeated courses do not count for credit toward your degree unless you did not earn credit during the first attempt (e.g., earned a failing grade, withdrew from the course) or unless they are specified as repeatable courses in the Undergraduate Bulletin. There are limits on the number of credits from certain courses that may be counted toward your degree. These limits are detailed in the Academic Policies and Regulations section of the Undergraduate Bulletin.

Grade Point Average

You must earn a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 ("C" average) in your academic coursework at Stony Brook to be awarded a Bachelor's degree. Grades from transfer coursework taken at other colleges are not included in computing the Stony Brook GPA. Calculate your GPA online at:

http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/apac/gpa_calculator.shtml

Major

Major requirements are detailed in the Approved Majors, Minors, and Programs section of the Undergraduate Bulletin. Most major courses must be taken for a letter grade, and often require a grade of C or higher. You must officially declare a major upon completing 45 credits toward your Stony Brook degree. If you decide on a major during your freshman year, your Undergraduate College Advisor can help you with the declaration process and will refer you when necessary to the appropriate advising office and/or academic department (completion of a minor is optional for most programs).

Residency

This does NOT mean that you have to live on campus! After the 57th credit, you must earn at least 36 credits at Stony Brook. Restrictions for all students are detailed in the Degree Requirements section of the Undergraduate Bulletin.