

# University Studies

## MAJOR MAP

### How to use the map

This map is designed to give you information about your chosen major that will help keep you on track for graduation within 4 years. The introductory sections will help orient you to the “big picture” ideas like the topics and areas of interest inside your major, the kinds of courses you will take, university policies including admissions, and other general topics. The chart on the second page will help you to develop a productive plan to make the most of your 4 years at East Carolina University and prepare yourself for the job market after graduation.

Remember, it is important that you diversify your experiences, both for success in your degree program and for success outside of school. While coursework is critically important, it should not be your only focus. The chart below will show you how to incorporate other kinds of experiences that will expand your knowledge of your chosen field and make you a more desirable job candidate. The map is only a guideline. Remember to speak with your advisor often to learn about new opportunities, clarify concerns, and develop a plan that is right for you.



### Questions?

East Carolina University offers an array of support to help you grow and learn from your first day of orientation until your graduation. New Student Orientation, Pirate to Pirate Mentoring, the University Writing Center, and the Career Center are only a few of the services and centers available to assist you throughout your time on campus.

## THEMATIC CORE

The thematic core is developed by the student around a specific program of study not available through established majors. Some previous examples of thematic core titles include:

1. Pedagogy Studies
2. Administrative Services
3. Health and Wellness Studies
4. Youth Services
5. Technology Studies
6. Educational Services for Children
7. Advocacy for Special Populations

These titles are only a small sample of the creative options that University Studies students have explored. While there have been students who have graduated with the same Thematic Core title, there are not set courses that make up each title. Each Thematic Core and curriculum plan is unique to each student.

## WHAT CAN I LEARN?

A degree in University Studies is unique in that it allows you to tailor your university education to meet your own needs. It does so by framing the courses you have already taken in a way that makes clear connections to your intended career path while also allowing you to complete additional course work to gain practical experience in your field of interest. Throughout this curriculum you will learn:

- To develop initiative and self-motivation that will allow you to take ownership of your own degree plan;
- To connect your existing coursework, future courses, and your intended career pathway to help you realize your post-graduation goals;
- To articulate your expertise in relation to your career goals;
- To develop skills that are necessary and relevant to your field of interest and reflect well on your level of experience to potential employers;
- To translate your degree into a competitive, marketable job.



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THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

# University Studies



## ABOUT THE MAJOR

The University Studies major is designed as an alternate degree option for students who face significant roadblocks which prevent the continuation or completion of a traditional BA/BS degree.

The Bachelor of Science in University Studies provides students an opportunity to design their own degree plan and obtain faculty assistance and approval for their non-traditional approach. Students work with University Studies Program advisors in the introductory class (UNIV 2000) to design a specific, individual course of study around a focused theme, which is otherwise not available in traditional university majors and related to their career goals. The University Studies program cannot be used to bypass requirements of an existing program or replicate an existing major. The Program Director and the

University Studies Faculty Oversight Committee (FOC), must approve of each student's degree plan and proposal to ensure academic rigor and help the student select courses that best meets their academic and career goals.

This program is perfect for students with a higher number of completed credit hours, transfer students, “part-way” students (adult learners who left college without a degree), and military personnel, veterans, and their family members who need a degree that can be tailored to their desires, but accepting of accumulated credit hours.

Completion of a University Studies degree does not meet requirements for professional teacher licensure or make students eligible for specialized certification which may be available to students who complete specific traditional majors.

## DEGREE OPTIONS

The Bachelor of Science in University Studies is open only to students who have earned a minimum of 75 credits at the university level and whose current GPA is 2.0 or higher.

The beauty of the University Studies degree is that your transcript will include

the Thematic Core title that you design in consultation with the Program Director and that is approved by the Faculty Oversight Committee. This means that your prospective employers are able to see that you have a degree tailored specifically to suit the job of your dreams.



## ADMISSIONS INFO

You can apply to the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions' website at [www.ecu.edu/admissions](http://www.ecu.edu/admissions). To be considered for admission to the University Studies program, students must have at least 75 completed hours and be in good academic standing.

## COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

As a University Studies major, you will take LDSP 1000: Introduction to Leadership Studies, LDSP 4000: Leadership Studies Capstone, UNIV 2000: Introduction to the Major, and most importantly UNIV 4990: University Studies Practicum. You will also choose from a variety of technology courses to help you better prepare for a competitive, modern job market.

## PRACTICUM COURSE

The Practicum course (UNIV 4990) is the key to your University Studies major. During this course, you will focus on articulating your post-graduation goals as well as understanding the work that is required to achieve those goals. The course will culminate in a capstone project, internship, or research paper that helps you make connections to practical and professional experience based on your approved thematic core.



# University Studies MAJOR MAP

DEGREE INFORMATION



## FIRST YEAR >>>

## SECOND YEAR >>>

## THIRD YEAR >>>

## FOURTH YEAR >>>

### THE COURSES YOU NEED

Begin work on General Education courses in English, Science, Math, Social Science Humanities/ Fine Arts, or Health and Exercise. The University Studies major is not an option for freshmen. Students are strongly encouraged to pursue and complete a traditional major at ECU.

Continue to focus on General Education courses to meet your required 40 hours. The University Studies major is not an option for sophomores. Students with less than 75 completed hours cannot declare a major in University Studies. Students are strongly encouraged to pursue and complete a traditional major at ECU.

Complete UNIV2000: Introduction to University Studies, which will help you to develop your Thematic Core and identify key career interests. Also register for LDSP1000: Introduction to Leadership Studies, and a technology focused course such as MIS2223, ITEC 2000, or BITE2112.

Complete UNIV4990: University Studies Practicum, which will allow you to choose between completing a capstone project, research paper, or internship, and focus on making connections between your Thematic Core and your post-graduation goals. Also make sure you are registered for LDSP4000 and complete any remaining graduation requirements.

### GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Explore your major and career options in consultation with your advisor. Begin noticing trends that interest you within specific fields of study and thinking about how those might relate to your coursework.

Volunteering is a great way to get experience in your field, build your résumé, test your interest in working with diverse populations, and meet people with similar interests. Look into volunteer opportunities that suit your schedule and personal interests.

Internships, CO-OP experiences, part-time jobs, and student leadership positions can provide important opportunities during your third year. Connect directly with faculty members with common research interests and attend career fairs to develop a post-graduation plan.

Participate in Research and Creative Achievement Week. Visit Career Services to make post-graduation plans that include employment or graduate school. Investigate job-related skills and identify gaps in your résumé so that you can address those deficiencies before graduation. Use the Occupation Outlook Handbook to identify common skills in your career of interest.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Consider joining clubs on campus that suit your unique interests and career goals. These clubs can be a great way to network, gain relevant experience, and explore community options related to your interests. For a full list of potential organizations, see [Orgsync](#).

Look for emails or other notifications from the college or university regarding upcoming events like conferences and career development fairs that can help you form professional networks and keep up with current research in fields that interest you.

Connect with the [Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement](#) for opportunities within the local community. You can also contact community partners using the [OrgSync](#) directory. To build your professional network, join a professional organization in one or more of the fields that interest you.

Submit a proposal to present a polished research paper from your Practicum Course at a local or national conference. Also look into any conferences that your national associations might host and consider attending.

### THINK GLOBALLY

Consider taking foreign language classes to bolster your cultural competency. Think about participating in a summer study abroad or semester exchange program. Consider joining student groups with an international or intercultural theme, including [Global Ambassadors](#), [WorldWise](#), or the [International Student Association](#).

Work on integrating internationally-oriented classes into your electives. Plan a semester abroad. Enroll in a Global Understanding course to work with students from foreign universities while studying right here at ECU.

Begin thinking about global connections or implications of your work in your Thematic Core. Finish taking courses to address any necessary gaps in the study of foreign languages or intercultural experiences.

Work with the [Office of Global Affairs](#) and the Career Center to learn how to leverage your study abroad experience to improve your job placement possibilities. Complete your program by incorporating more internationally themed courses.

### CAREER PREPAREDNESS

Visit [Career Services](#) to learn about their resources. Check out the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) and [Virtual Job Shadow](#) to explore potential careers. Log in to [Handshake](#) to set up your profile, check out career events, and begin to explore potential employers and job opportunities and any further education that may be necessary.

Meet with your Career Counselor to explore your career goals and develop your resume. Attend a career fair and other employer-related career events to network with potential employers. Determine if graduate or other continuing education will be necessary.

Develop your LinkedIn profile. Meet with your Career Counselor to discuss post-graduation plans. If needed, research graduate schools and program requirements. Continue to attend career fairs and other employer related career events. Begin developing graduate school application materials if necessary.

Meet with your Career Counselor to put your post-graduation plans into action. Refine your résumé, [LinkedIn](#) profile, graduate school application (if necessary), and interview preparations. Complete the Pirate Employment Survey.

## WHAT EMPLOYERS WANT

As a University Studies Major you will pursue a course of study that aligns with your unique interests and career goals. This major will allow you to:

- Prepare for specific challenges unique to your field of interest;
- Gain practical experience through internships and directed study;
- Tailor your degree options to meet the needs of interdisciplinary career fields;
- Develop critical thinking, organization, and planning skills that will be useful in any career path.

## VISIT US ONLINE

For more information and an interactive map PDF, visit:  
<https://universitystudies.ecu.edu>  
 Or  
[www.facebook.com/universitystudiesecu](https://www.facebook.com/universitystudiesecu)



APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR

LOOK INTO INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES