

BGS Summary Project Guidelines (GS 4279)

The Bachelor of General Studies Summary Project (GS 4279) is a senior year, three credit, interdisciplinary, academic enterprise. The Summary Project reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the student's customized plan of study and explores in-depth a relevant area of interest as demonstrated in a paper or report.

The Summary Project may take one of the following forms:

- A research paper
- An experiment
- A specialized field experience or internship
- Creative writing (such as poetry, fiction, journalism) or an artistic production (such as painting, drama, film, video, music.)

Criteria for each Summary Project Option

Research paper

- Review selected professional writings relating to the topic
- Comprehensive review of the writings of one aspect of the topic
- Understand the ideas and perspectives in the literature reviewed
- Evaluate the authors' use of evidence
- Integrate the material into a coherent whole or prove why such integration is not possible

Experiment

- Develop and test a hypothesis (which may be done as part of an internship or specialized field experience)
- Evaluate if and/or how the results confirm the hypothesis
- Show how the findings of the experiment relate to other research on the topic

Artistic Production

- In an original written or artistic creation, produce a completed work that meets the criteria established by the faculty supervisor
- Write a report demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of the creative / artistic work

Specialized Field Experience or Internship

- Fulfill the requirements and guidelines of an internship. (See Internship Guidelines on the BGS Web site)
- Report the interdisciplinary nature of the experience or internship

Other methods of research appropriate to the topic

- Completed work that meets the criteria established by the faculty supervisor
- A report demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of the project

All Summary Project options require a written report or paper that demonstrates the interdisciplinary nature of the project.

Each student will work with an appropriate faculty supervisor to develop a Summary Project Proposal using the corresponding proposal form (see BGS website). The faculty supervisor will decide the criteria for evaluation and will grade the final project. Proposals require the signed approval of the student's Faculty Supervisor, Academic Counselor, and Director of Degree Completion Programs.