

Associate of Arts with a concentration in Foundations of Business

The Associate of Arts with a concentration in Foundations of Business focuses on the topics of business, global business, accounting, economics, finance, and marketing. In this degree program, students will explore fundamental business principles and learn to apply problem-solving strategies to real-life scenarios. Students will also discuss the effects of culture and ethics in current global and domestic business environments. Some course activities include SWOT analysis, examination of the supply and demand curve, a review of the relationship between marketing and sales, and implementation of basic financial planning techniques.

Axia College of University of Phoenix offers an Associate of Arts degree with a range of concentrations in business, criminal justice, education, health and human services, information technology, and more. The curriculum provides a foundation and overview within the academic disciplines of communication arts, social sciences, mathematics, life sciences, and the humanities. Instruction focuses on the development of student skills in writing, critical thinking, and information utilization, as well as foundational competencies in the selected concentration.

Nine weeks in length, Axia College courses are offered in pairs, or “blocks,” designed to complement each other. In these courses, emphasis alternates weekly between reading and online discussion one week and a work project the next.

The completion of an Associate of Arts degree represents an important milestone for many students as they pursue their educational goals.

Communication Arts—9 credits

COM 140

Contemporary Business Communication

In this course, students develop an understanding of the formats and style of the written word as they create a variety of effective business communications for both internal and external audiences. Selected readings provide the foundation for discussions of the purpose, audience, structure, tone, and content of business writing. Grammar exercises focus on sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and bias-free language. (3 credits)

COM 150

Effective Essay Writing

In this course, students develop academic writing skills. Students use the writing process to construct an expository essay with an emphasis on coherence and correctness in written communication. Students also conduct basic research for the expository essay. Selected readings provide the basis for discussion regarding the difference between fact and opinion. Grammar exercises focus on verb tense and form, subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement, and pronoun case. Students also complete exercises covering topic sentences, paragraph development, citations, and formatting guidelines. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

COM 220

Research Writing

Students focus on gathering research, evaluating and documenting sources, and developing a major research paper. Selected readings prompt discussion regarding bias, rhetorical devices, arguments, and counterarguments. Grammar exercises address commonly confused words, modifiers, parallel structure, and sentence variety. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105, COM 140, COM 150, and CRT 205.

Humanities—6 credits

(CRT 205 plus 3 additional credits selected from the courses below)

CRT 205

Critical Thinking

In this course, students develop the ability to think clearly and critically. Practice includes developing writing skills that enable students to clearly present claims to support their conclusions and avoid reinforcing biases. Students are given the opportunity to analyze and discuss various types of media—including television, Internet, and print—to determine which sources provide the most reliable information. Topics addressed include the relationship between critical thinking and clear writing, credibility of sources, rhetorical devices, fallacies, unclear or misleading language, and the characteristics of various types of arguments. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

HUM 130

Religions of the World

This course studies the major religions of the world. Topics include Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Indigenous Cultures, Islam, Judaism, and Taoism. Students will objectively study the origins and major figures, and compare and contrast each of the major religions. During this course, each student will visit a religious site and interview a person of an unfamiliar faith. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

HUM 205

World Culture and the Arts

Culture and the arts play a complex role in enriching the human experience. This course will analyze the social role of the arts in the early civilizations through the present day. Students will explore the key contributions in visual art, architecture, literature, and music of the civilizations presented in this course. In particular, students will construct a virtual museum comprised of various artifacts representing several cultures. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

LIT 210

World Literature

This course covers fiction, drama, poetry, and essays by significant world authors throughout history. Students will focus on literary devices and conventions of each genre through the following activities: matching exercises and literary matrices, short essays and evaluations on specific reading selections, and a final comparative essay of any two pieces of literature covered in the course. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

PHI 105

Introduction to Philosophy

In this course, philosophical thinking and reasoning are introduced through the evaluation of the historical development, key contributors, and principle issues of philosophy. Topical areas include both Western and Eastern philosophy, moral and political philosophy, religious philosophy, as well as feminism. Student activities include, but are not limited to, creating campaign ads for fictional political parties, writing a letter in the persona of a historical philosopher, and creating a *PowerPoint*[®] presentation that expresses personal philosophies. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

Mathematics—6 credits

(selected from the courses below)

MAT 116

Algebra 1A

This course introduces basic algebra concepts and assists in building skills for performing specific mathematical operations and problem solving. Students will solve equations, evaluate algebraic expressions, solve and graph linear equations and linear

inequalities, graph lines, and solve systems of linear equations and linear inequalities. These concepts and skills will serve as a foundation for subsequent business coursework. Applications to real-world problems are also explored throughout the course. This course is the first half of the college algebra sequence, which is completed in MAT 117, Algebra IB. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

MAT 117

Algebra 1B

This course explores advanced algebra concepts and assists in building the algebraic and problem solving skills developed in Algebra 1A. Students will solve polynomials, quadratic equations, rational equations, and radical equations. These concepts and skills will serve as a foundation for subsequent business coursework. Applications to real-world problems are also explored throughout the course. This course is the second half of the college algebra sequence, which began with MAT 116, Algebra 1A. (3 credits) Prerequisite: MAT 116.

MAT 205

Finite Mathematics

This course introduces the concepts of finite mathematics, with a focus on real-world application. Students will explore linear functions and equations, linear programming, and the use and application of matrices. Mathematical applications of finance, statistics, and probability are also reviewed. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

Science and Technology—6 credits

(selected from the courses below)

IT 205

Management of Information Systems

This course introduces students to the world of information technology. Students will examine the technology concepts included in business systems, networking, and project management and explore the Systems Development Life Cycle (SDLC). Specific topics for the course include: hardware components, software applications, operating systems, databases, programming, as well as the security, privacy, and safety issues associated with information technology. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

SCI 230

Introduction to Life Science

This course introduces the student to scientific ideologies and concepts that not only shape our biological world, but also shape us as humans. Through a variety of comprehensive assessments and relevant discussions, students examine the scientific method, the dynamics of inheritance, and the affect humans have on the environment. Topics include the biology of cells, energy systems, and evolution. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

SCI 241

The Science of Nutrition

This course introduces students to the world of human nutrition. Students examine the components included in a healthy, balanced diet, and develop strategies to meet their changing nutritional needs throughout the various stages of life. Specific topics for the course include: the digestion process, functions and health benefits of specific nutrients, weight management and fitness, and the effects of nutritional deficiencies. (3 credits)

Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

SCI 245

Physical Geology

This course gives an overview of physical geology by introducing concepts such as plate tectonics and geologic time. Students gain familiarity with the processes that shape the earth's surface and recognize the relevance of studying geology. Topics include the rock cycle, weathering, formation of geological features, and preservation of geological resources. (3 credits)

Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

SCI 275

Environmental Science

This course focuses on the causes, impacts, and solutions to environmental issues. Students identify global environmental issues, as well as develop and critique environmental action plans. Topics include ecosystems, energy, populations, resources, pollution, and sustainability. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

Social Sciences

[ETH 125 plus 3 additional credits selected from the courses below]

ETH 125

Cultural Diversity

This course is designed to educate students about issues of race and ethnicity by presenting historical and modern perspectives on diversity in the United States, and by providing tools necessary to promote a respectful and inclusive society. Students will complete several activities that allow them to examine their own values in relation to the values of various other racial and ethnic communities. (3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105, COM 140, COM 150, and CRT 205.

HIS 135

The American Experience Since 1945

This course is an overview of the principal social, political, economic, and global events which have shaped the American experience since World War II. Understanding modern American history is a necessity in today's ever-changing world. This course aims to supply the tools for understanding current political, social, cultural, and economic problems in the U.S. by applying historical perspective to analyze contemporary issues. (3 credits)

Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

BEH 225

Introduction to Behavioral Science

This course focuses on human personality, motivation, learning, and cognition. The theories and insights of major figures in psychology are discussed. Neuroscience, psychological disorders, and therapies are also considered in relation to human behavior.

(3 credits) Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

SOC 120

Introduction to Sociology

This course is a foundation for studies of sociology. In this course, students gain an understanding of the sociological perspective, theories, and research methods. Students also explore culture, race, ethnicity, socialization, social interaction, deviance, social control, groups, organizations, social and gender stratification, population, and social change. (3 credits)

Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

Additional Liberal Arts—3 credits

GEN 105

Skills for Learning in an Information Age

This course introduces students to learning in an information-rich society. Students will develop strategies for successful distance learning, time management, and for managing the abundance of information available in today's society. Students will also explore the appropriate use of information in an academic environment. Specific topics for the course include computing skills for distance learning, online library use, academic honesty, and the development of effective study skills. (3 credits)

Interdisciplinary Studies—6 credits

Interdisciplinary Studies can be satisfied with coursework not applied to any of the general education or concentration course requirements.

Business Concentration—18 credits

BUS 210

Foundations of Business

In this course students will explore the foundation of business by reviewing topics regarding the structure and culture of the modern business environment. Additional topics include the evolution of business, the role of the business ethics, communication, technology, operations, leadership, and human resources. Upon completion, students are better prepared to make informed decisions regarding their educational and professional goals. (3 credits).

Prerequisites: GEN 105 and COM 140.

XECO 212

Principles of Economics

This course introduces the fundamental theories of microeconomics and macroeconomics. The economic principles studied in this course apply to everyday life as students research an industry, debate issues with trade agreements, discuss the effects of a shift in labor supply and demand, and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Consumer Price Index calculation. In particular, students research an industry affected by the economy and perform an economic analysis of the chosen industry. (3 credits) Prerequisite: BUS 210.

XBIS 219

Business Information Systems

This course provides an overview of Business Information Systems. This includes a broad foundation for both technical and non-technical business professionals. Special emphasis is placed on how information is used by different types of businesses across different industries. (3 credits) Prerequisite: BUS 210.

XMGT 216

Organizational Ethics and Social Responsibility

This course provides a foundational perspective for socially responsible management practices in business. Special emphasis is placed on the inter-related nature of ethics, moral, legal, and social issues in managing individuals, groups, and the organization within a business environment. (3 credits)

Prerequisite: BUS 210.

XACC/280

Financial Accounting Concepts and Principles

This course covers the fundamentals of financial accounting as well as the identification, measurement, and reporting of the financial effects of economic events on the enterprise. Financial information is examined from the perspective of effective management decision making with special emphasis on the planning and controlling responsibilities of practicing managers. (3 credits) Prerequisite: BUS 210.

XCOM/285

Essentials of Managerial Communication

This course introduces students to the foundations of communication in a business setting. Students are exposed to various topics related to interpersonal and group communication with an eye toward applications in an office or virtual office setting. Students will develop skills in various forms of written communication, including memos, emails, business letters, and reports. Communication ethics and cross-cultural communications are also explored. Upon completing the course, students will have an awareness of their personal communication style and be able to identify areas for further exploration of communication as a business skill. (3 credits)

Prerequisites: COM 220 and BUS 210.

University of Phoenix is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association (ncahlc.org). Axia College is a college of University of Phoenix. The Associate of Arts with a concentration in Foundation of Business is accredited by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (acbsp.org).

College credit granted by University of Phoenix. Successful completion of this associate's degree satisfies the general education credit requirements for bachelor's degree programs at University of Phoenix. Transferability of credit to institutions other than University of Phoenix is at the discretion of the receiving institution. It is the student's responsibility to confirm whether or not credits earned at University of Phoenix will be accepted by another institution of the student's choice.

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