Board of Trustees
Bachelor of Arts Degree Program

NON-TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS
School of Extended Studies

Visit us on the web at www.wiu.edu/BOTdegree
The decision to enter a college degree program is an important one affecting you and your family. Many adult students work full time and have family responsibilities to consider while earning their bachelor’s degree. The WIU Board of Trustees Bachelor of Arts (BOT/BA) Degree Program was developed in 1972 to serve mature adults who were unable to complete an undergraduate degree by traditional means.

**The BOT/BA Degree Program**

WIU offers a unique BA degree program designed to provide adult students with an opportunity to earn a regionally accredited undergraduate degree in a manner compatible with their educational needs and lifestyles. All students have the opportunity to optimize their previously earned college credits through this highly individualized and flexible program. Students may transfer up to 80 semester hours from regionally accredited community colleges. This provides those students who have received associate degrees the ability to transfer into a baccalaureate degree program with minimum loss of earned credit. Students may also be eligible for academic credit for college-level learning that was completed in non-collegiate settings, such as military or on-the-job training.

The BOT/BA degree program offers students the options of applying for academic credit by preparing a prior learning portfolio, successfully completing proficiency exams, and combining prior college credit with individually selected courses to create a personalized program of study. Although a major may not be earned, a minor may be earned by completing the exact academic requirements listed in the WIU Undergraduate Catalog.

After you successfully complete the BOT/BA degree program, you will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree. A recent survey indicated that many of our BOT/BA graduates were admitted to graduate and professional schools. However, we advise you to verify the need for courses required for admission with the individual graduate or professional school as soon as you think you wish to pursue an advanced degree.

If you want to work toward an additional certificate or license such as a teaching certificate, you must determine what courses are required. For teaching certificate information, we recommend communicating with the director of the College of Education and Human Services Center for Preparation of Educational Professionals and Teacher Certification Office, Horrabin Hall 91, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, Illinois 61455 (309/298-1434). On-campus attendance is required for WIU teaching endorsement. Elementary education certification may also be completed at the Western Illinois University–Quad Cities campus in Moline.
Each prospective student to the **WIU Board of Trustees Bachelor of Arts Degree Program** must submit an application for admission to the Non-Traditional Programs office. Applications are available at our website (www.wiu.edu/BOTdegree) or upon request from the Non-Traditional Programs office.

### Admission Requirements

If you have attended other colleges or universities …

- You must have a “C” average for all work attempted.
- You must be in good standing at the last college or university attended.
- It must be at least five years since your scheduled high school graduation date.

OR

- You must have earned an accredited associate’s degree or successfully completed 60 semester hours of coursework.

If you have never attended college …

- You must hold a high school diploma or GED, and be at least five years beyond your scheduled high school graduation date.

If you do not meet the admission requirements, you may appeal to the BOT/BA Advisory Committee for admission. Admission will not be granted to persons who have already completed a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution. Admission to the BOT/BA degree program does not admit you to any other WIU degree program.

### Our Special Features Include:

- Long history—developed in 1972 with over 6,100 graduates
- Online courses at in-state tuition rates
- No maintenance or graduation fees
- Possibility of meeting the 30-semester-hour enrollment requirement without on-campus attendance
- Student-designed learning; no major designated
- Evaluation of prior learning portfolio or nationally normed proficiency exams
- Professional advising services for each student
- 95 percent of all courses taught by full-time WIU faculty
- Acceptance of ACE Guide-evaluated military training
- Program’s potential to follow you if you change locations
- No prescribed time limit to complete the degree program
- No advance payment for new semester charges by students in good financial standing with WIU
Minimum graduation requirements for all students seeking the WIU Board of Trustees Bachelor of Arts Degree are:

- Complete 120-semester-hour requirement for the baccalaureate degree. The 120 semester hours will include a general education component, 40 hours earned from a senior (usually 4-year) institution at the upper-division (junior/senior) level, and 30 hours to be successfully completed through Western Illinois University courses with at least 16 of these hours carrying upper-division credit.

An associate of arts or an associate of science degree from a regionally accredited college or university satisfies the general education requirement. Specific courses in other associate degree programs such as an associate of applied science or an associate of general studies may also satisfy these requirements, but credits are transferred into the program on an individual basis.

To meet the general education component of the degree program, students choose either the WIU General Education Requirements or the IAI General Education Requirements.

**WIU General Education Requirements**

**Basic Skills** .......................................................... 9 semester hours
Three courses, including a two-course sequence in writing (6 semester hours) and one course in oral communication (3 semester hours). A grade of “C” or better will be required for satisfactory completion of the communication-writing requirements.

**Mathematics Competency** .................................................... 3 semester hours
One course

**Natural Science and Mathematics** ........................................ 10 semester hours
Courses must be from two different departments and include one laboratory course.

**Social Science** ............................................................... 9 semester hours
Courses must be from two different departments.

**Humanities** ................................................................. 9 semester hours
Courses must be from two different departments.

**Human Well Being** ........................................................... 3 semester hours
Courses must be from two different departments.

**Multicultural Studies** .......................................................... 3 semester hours
One course
IAI General Education Requirements

Communication ................................................................. 9 semester hours
Three courses, including a two-course sequence in writing (6 semester hours) and
one course in oral communication (3 semester hours). A grade of “C” or better will
be required for satisfactory completion of the communication-writing requirements.

Mathematics ................................................................. 3 semester hours
One course

Physical and Life Sciences ............................................. 7 semester hours
Two courses, with one selected from the life sciences and one course from the
physical sciences and including at least one laboratory course

Humanities and Fine Arts .................................................. 9 semester hours
Three courses with at least one course selected from humanities and at least one course
from the fine arts

Social and Behavior Sciences ............................................ 9 semester hours
Three courses with courses selected from at least two disciplines

For both sets of General Education Requirements, students must earn a passing letter grade
in each course used to fulfill the requirements. No more than two courses from any one
discipline can be used to fulfill general education curriculum requirements.

◆ Earn a minimum overall WIU GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 basis (A 2.00 GPA is comparable to a
“C” average).

◆ Successfully complete one of the following: (1) a university designated writing intensive
“W” course, (2) a university writing-in-the-discipline (WID) requirement, or (3) a
validated, comprehensive writing assignment.

◆ Pass an examination on the constitutions of the United States and the State of Illinois.
This requirement may be met by successfully completing Political Science 122, passing an
examination administered by the Department of Political Science, or filing a copy of an
accredited Illinois high school or Illinois GED transcript with a graduation date after 1953.

Time Limits on Completing the BOT/BA Degree Program

The BOT/BA degree program does not have a time limit to complete the graduation
requirements. An analysis of recent BOT/BA graduates’ transcripts found that the average
graduate earned one semester hour of credit per month of enrollment in the program. You may
earn credit at a faster or slower pace.
Meeting the BOT/BA's Graduation Requirements

The key to the BOT/BA degree program is flexibility. The program has numerous options available to you for meeting graduation requirements. You may fulfill the 120-semester-hour minimum and all other graduation requirements through any or all of the following means:

◆ **WIU Courses.** May include on-campus, extension, and online courses to meet the 30-semester-hour WIU enrollment requirement.

◆ **Transfer Credit.** Academic credit may be transferred into the BOT/BA degree program provided: (1) a passing grade was earned; (2) at the time the credit was earned, the college or university was regionally accredited by one of the following: Middles States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwestern Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or Western Association of Schools and Colleges; (3) the credit could be applied at that institution to an associate’s or bachelor’s degree program; (4) the course was not a duplication of credit previously awarded; and (5) the course was not remedial or developmental. There is no limit to the length of time elapsed since the credit was earned. WIU admissions and records officers will evaluate your transcripts and classify credit at the lower- or upper-division level and as meeting general education requirements when applicable.

◆ **Proficiency Examinations.** Achieving satisfactory scores on proficiency exams from the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), the Excelsior College Examination Program (ECEP), the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI), and the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) examinations.

◆ **Prior Learning Portfolio.** Documenting specific college-level knowledge gained through non-academic pursuits that can be related to a particular WIU course. To be eligible to submit a prior learning portfolio, you must have been admitted to the BOT/BA degree program. There is a limit of 30 hours that can be applied to the graduation requirements. Any additional hours awarded will be transcribed, but this additional credit will not be applied to your graduation requirements. Prior learning portfolio credit does not meet the 30-semester-hour WIU enrollment requirement. The University does not evaluate non-WIU course requests for prior learning portfolio credit.

◆ **Military Training Courses.** Credit awarded for military courses, training programs, and military occupation specialties as recommended by the American Council on Education (ACE).
The cost of earning the WIU Board of Trustees Bachelor of Arts Degree is based on the number of credits you need to graduate, the method of earning credit (e.g., courses, prior learning portfolio, proficiency examinations, military training, etc.), the tuition rate for credits, and the number and types of courses taken.

Current WIU charges include:

- **Application fee**—$25 for online submissions; $30 for mailed or delivered submissions
- **Transcript fee**—A one-time charge of $7 billed at the time of admission to the degree program that entitles you to an unlimited number of transcripts
- **Tuition per semester hour**—Tuition at WIU is based on semester hours. The most up-to-date tuition information is available online at [www.wiu.edu/tuition](http://www.wiu.edu/tuition).
- **Distance Learning Instructional Enhancement Charge**—$30 per credit hour assessment for all Internet, Correspondence, and Extension site courses.
- **Prior learning portfolio submission fee**—$30 billed when a portfolio has been accepted for evaluation
- **Transcription/Transfer credit fee**—None
- **Annual enrollment fee**—None
- **Graduation fee**—None

WIU does not require advance payment of new semester charges from new matriculating students or students in good financial standing. You may pay during the semester according to your individual resources. WIU reserves the right to change fees and tuition at any time.

As a BOT/BA student, you may, as any other undergraduate student, seek financial assistance through grants, loans, and scholarships.

The BOT/BA degree program is approved for VA benefits. Veterans who are eligible under the G.I. Bill and/or Illinois Veterans Grant may receive benefits when applicable. Although certain stipulations apply to total course load, active duty personnel may also receive tuition assistance.

### Cost Guarantee

WIU has implemented a cost guarantee for tuition and fees for all undergraduate students. All new undergraduate students entering the University are automatically included in the plan, which freezes the per-hour tuition and fee rate, so costs remain the same each year the student attends WIU as an undergraduate. The tuition and fee rate will be fixed for a four-year period and remain in effect as long as the student maintains continuous enrollment in the University.
Non-Traditional Programs
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