

The Bachelor of General Studies On-line Degree Program

<http://www.twu.edu/genstudies/>

Interview with Brandie Golleher, Program Director and adviser to students enrolled to complete their BGS degree on-line.

Connection: What is the concept behind offering the General Studies Degree?

Brandie: The BGS degree is an interdisciplinary program intended to provide flexibility for student seeing to complete a bachelor's degree. It is offered through the College of Arts and Sciences.

Connection: Why on-line? Do other universities offer this?

Brandie: Because the on-line component reaches out to those students who otherwise may not be able to complete their degrees. Other universities do offer such degrees, but TWU's format is much more structured. We make it more accessible.

Connection: Does "on-line" equate to "easier" when seeking a degree?

Brandie: Not at all. Seeking a degree on line requires perfecting reading and communication skills, not to mention the perseverance and self-motivation required. It's not for everyone. But the convenience offered those who need to juggle work, family and education, is attractive.

Connection: What is the enrollment in the BGS program this fall?

Brandie: There are 612 students enrolled, nearly at 30% increase from last year.

Connection: Wow! Other than the charming adviser, why do you think that TWU's program is so successful?

Brandie: Students who take their classes here know that they are receiving a quality education while still having the convenience of being on-line. The quality of learning is not sacrificed and they can choose from a diverse set of courses.

Connection: What can you tell us about the students that enroll?

Brandie: They are mostly non-traditional students, employed full time. They need their courses to be interesting, they desire good customer service, and they require an avenue in which they may complete their degree in a shorter period of time, if they desire.

Connection: Do you keep in touch with some of your graduate?

Brandie: I do! The BGS students have moved on to law school, have received teaching certificates, and many of the students have moved into our graduate programs at TWU!