New BAAS Concentrations

As the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences program continues to grow, so too do the opportunities that we are able to offer to our students. This Fall we are introducing three new and exciting concentrations:

- **Healthcare Administration**

  The Healthcare Administration Concentration is designed for students or healthcare professionals who have an accredited associate's degree or certificate from a vocational technical program, hours from a medical or healthcare services degree or program, or those currently working or desiring to work in the healthcare or medical field. This concentration prepares individuals to assume positions as managers, trainers, and educators within various healthcare-related fields. Upon completion of this concentration students will have acquired the foundation to further advance their knowledge and skills to be more effective in their roles as managers and trainers within their organization's employee assistance, training, or employee development programs.

- **Human Services**

  The Human Services Concentration prepares individuals to meet human needs through an interdisciplinary knowledge base. Focusing on prevention, as well as remediation of problems, graduates will help improve the overall quality of life of the serviced populations. The multi-disciplinary coursework combines a general foundation of human services theory, work application, and academic coursework for students at entry level or those currently working in social services, governmental agencies, institutional and community-based corrections, child welfare systems, and nonprofit and health service agencies.

  View our website for more information!

- **Human Resource Development**

  The Human Resource Development Concentration prepares individuals to work towards improving the performance of workers within industry or governmental sector. The multi-disciplinary coursework combines strategies in counseling, adult learning, and the integration of technology into the training and development process. A graduate would be prepared for a career in training and development for any industry. Those currently in the field will have acquired the foundation to further advance their knowledge and skills to be more effective in their roles as managers and trainers within their various fields.

- **Important Reminders**

  - Early registration for the Spring 2017 will be here before you know it. Please plan to take advantage of early registration. Classes fill very quickly.

  - Be mindful of applying for graduation early. We suggest applying for graduation at least two semesters prior to your projected date to avoid graduation delays.

  - Do not forget about the Writing Proficiency Requirement. All degree-seeking students must successfully pass the Writing Proficiency Exam or ENGL 2113 in order to graduate.
Sheila is a Traditional BAAS student and is currently a junior. She hopes to graduate in the Spring of 2018. After graduation she plans to stay with Duncan Regional Hospital and pursue advancement opportunities.

I am 52 years old with a wonderful and supportive husband of 23 years. I grew up in the Texas panhandle and attended West Texas State University after high school. I worked at Southwestern Bell Telephone for 18 years and due to office closings, I ended up leaving and began my second career. I have been employed in Human Resources for Duncan Regional Hospital for 10 of the 12 years that I have been at the hospital. I love my job and the organization.

I always regretted not completing my higher education. My husband finally asked what I was waiting for so I told a friend who works at Midwestern State University about my desire to finish college. She immediately told me about the BAAS program at MSU. The degree plan is flexible and my advisor works with me to find the right classes to match my career goals. The MSU BAAS program is the right choice and a good fit for me.

Reaching my ultimate goal is what motivates me the most. That goal is knowing that the end result will be to fulfill my dream of completing my degree. My husband motivates me with his support. My boss and mentor encourages and provides guidance when necessary. I am blessed to have this opportunity to advance my education. A fear of failure also motivates me, but in a good way.

Not having a face to face relationship with my professors and not being able to hear other student’s questions and feedback about the course and assignments have been the biggest challenges of online learning for me. I sometimes have to read the material several times to remember it. I had to learn that it is okay if I don’t make an A or if I stumble on a quiz. I just pick myself up and keep going. Support from my spouse and those around me is what enables me to overcome most of these challenges.

To ensure success, I read each syllabus several times. I plan out the assignments for each week. If I can get ahead, I will take that initiative. I keep notebooks for each class with the syllabus in each notebook; I have organization on my computer desk top with folders for each class. I take notes when reading chapters and keep them with each notebook. I have developed a discipline of taking time for school. Every evening when I come home from work, I have an assignment for myself. I make homework a priority on the weekends. Everything else is scheduled around it if possible and if not, I give myself a deadline.

If you have thought of it and feel as though you could do more with a degree, then do it. Don’t wait! I wish I had started earlier but better late than never!

Student Spotlight: Sheila Crissman

My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.

- Maya Angelou
Congratulations May and August BAAS Grads!

We want to take a moment to recognize and extend a special note of congratulations to our BAAS May and August graduates! We are so proud of every one of you and all of the hard work you have put forth to accomplish this goal. Best wishes for a bright future!

May 2016 Graduates
Layce Delayne Adams
Lance Wayne Adkins
Brenlan Harvy Allen
Risa Lynn Almendarez
Shawn Christopher Bushee
Savannah Hope Campbell
Joan Elaine Chalifoux
Eric James Christmas
Jeffrey Scott Davis
Sasha C. Deas
Tonya Lee Duncan-Blackwell
David Ray Finley, Jr.
Grant Michael Golden
Crystal Dawn Renfro Graham
Cheryl Talamo Hajri
Aubrey JoAnn Hill
Byron Allen Holloway
David Christopher Holub
Taylor Nicole Houtchens
Monica Joy Isbell
Nicholas Wayne McGregor
Desiree Laynette Fournier Morkin
Monica Charlene Otten
Courtney Matthew Pero
Jessie Roy Peterson
Barbara Bumpers Purcell
Bailey W. Rich
Kayla Ann Rodriguez
Richard Dale Roebuck, Jr.
Kumbah Massah Rogers
Arianna Lea Rojas
Ashley Breanne Sanford
Craig Smith
Alice Martinez Suarez
Blake Allen Keith Thomason
Brandon Tyrion Torres
Emily Denee Whisenhunt
Ama Birago Wiafe-Ababio

August 2016 Graduates
Tiffany Cara Allen
Craig Timothy Anderson
John Edward Bateman
Jeffery Ray Christy
Jason Philip Crump
Kietric Jacqueline Donald
Juan Miguel Estrada
Kevin Steffon Hampton
Clarence Allen Hill, Jr.
Melissa Anne Mobley Howell
Christol Necole Johnson
Mandi Rae Kelley
Lindsey Danae Marsland
Marguerite Elizabeth Miller
Jeffrey Scott Norris
Alyssa Shea Oates
Martina Ene Omale
Samantha Jo Perkins
Matthew Benjamin Rodgers
Jasmine Michelle Roney
Tavarus Conard Sanders
Mujidat Oyenike Seidu
Jacki Sue Spicer
Stephanie Josephine Velazquez
Todd Wadlington
Jeff Allan Williams
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The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree is designed to offer students with workforce education, vocational-technical training and/or professional experience in occupational fields the opportunity to obtain a baccalaureate degree. Such experienced professional/vocational students may obtain credit toward this degree via regionally accredited college-level course work and/or certain types of professional and educational training. Students who pursue the degree are required to complete the academic core requirements, thirty-six hours of advanced credit that is complementary to the vocational-technical or professional area, and any additional hours necessary to meet the 120-hour university requirement as stated in the catalog.

BAAS Scholarship Opportunities

The BAAS Office is proud to have the opportunity to award two $250 scholarships to two BAAS students each Fall semester. We are looking specifically to help out students in financial need who lack additional funding for their education. However, all BAAS students who are enrolled in at least 6 hours and have completed at least 12 hours at MSU are welcome to apply.

Our Fall 2016 BAAS Scholarship recipients are Mellisa Moncibaiz and Zack Shanks. Mellisa and Zack are seniors in the BAAS Program. We want to congratulate Mellisa and Zack and we sincerely hope that this scholarship will help them in moving forward and achieving their goals.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship for the Fall 2017 semester, please fill out the form that can be found here: https://mwsu.edu/academics/education/baas/scholarships. Complete the scholarship document, then scan and send it to the BAAS advisor at carleykundert@mwsu.edu between May 29th and August 18th. Please make sure that your scholarship application is complete and well-written and that you have stated your situation clearly.

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

- Ben Franklin