

Build your Bachelor of Arts – Video Transcript + Links

The Bachelor of Arts, or “BA”, is a flexible program that gives you the freedom to both specialise and diversify your knowledge in over 45 fields of study.

So, how do you build the BA that’s perfect for you? We’ll show you.

As a BA student, you need to successfully complete 48 units to graduate. Most courses are worth 2 units each, and a full-time student normally completes 4 courses each semester. By doing that, you will complete your BA in 3 years.

Of the 48 units needed for the BA, 32 units must be chosen from the BA course list. The remaining 16 units are your general elective courses.

The 32 units required from the BA course list will be made up from one of two structures: you can choose to complete two majors of 16 units each, or you can complete an extended major of 24 units with a minor of 8 units.

The remaining 16 units are your general elective courses. These can be selected from any course list at UQ, as long as you meet any entry requirements for that course. General elective courses give you the opportunity to explore another discipline in the humanities, arts and social sciences, or to maybe take some courses in other areas, such as business or science.

A range of dual programs is also available, where you undertake another program alongside a BA, such as a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Social Science, or a Bachelor of Communication/Bachelor of Arts. Each dual program will have its own program requirements and additional rules, so it is important to be aware of what these are. If you are unsure, you can contact the relevant faculty.

For the BA component of your dual program, you need to complete 32 units from one of two structures: you can choose to complete two majors of 16 units each, or you can complete an extended major of 24 units with a minor of 8 units.

This is the same as for a BA single program; however, it is important to note that you do not have the option to complete general elective courses in a dual program.

Check out the [BA program requirements](https://programs-courses.uq.edu.au/) for the full list of available majors, extended majors and minors at <https://programs-courses.uq.edu.au/>.

Once you have chosen which structure you will complete, you then need to look at the course lists for your two majors, or for your extended major and minor, as they will detail the list of any compulsory courses you must complete as well as the discipline electives that are available in each field of study.

When choosing courses from the course list, you can work out the level of a course by looking at the first number in the course code. Level 1 introductory courses start with ‘1’, Level 2 intermediate courses start with ‘2’ and Level 3 advanced courses start with ‘3’.

If you are enrolled in a single BA, you must complete your first 8 units from the BA course list. For full-time students, this is normally your first semester of study. This requirement does not apply to students in BA dual programs.

When planning your first semester, you may wish to select a Level 1 course from two BA areas of study you are interested in. These will normally be courses from your two majors, or from your extended major and minor.

If you are in a BA single program, you might then think about what two other Level 1 BA courses interest you. If they are outside your majors or extended major and minor, they will be credited towards your program as general electives.

If you are in a BA dual program, you will not be able to choose courses as general electives; instead, you'll select courses from the other component of your dual program.

Remember that, sometimes, courses aren't offered in all semesters; you may need to choose between a Semester 1 or Semester 2 offering.

Lastly, there are some important additional rules you must remember when planning your program and selecting your courses.

The first of these rules is that you cannot complete more than 32 units with the same discipline descriptor (same first four letters of the course code) in the course code (for example, course codes starting with POLS or COMU).

The second rule is that you cannot complete more than 24 units at Level 1.

The third rule is that you must complete at least 8 units at Level 3.

If you're enrolled in a dual BA program, you'll meet these requirements automatically by following the course lists for your majors or extended major and minor.

For more information about your study options and program requirements, check out the study planning tools available at <https://hass.uq.edu.au/program-advice>.

These planners provide suggestions on when to take Level 1, 2 and 3 courses and will help you to organise your study in a way that both works for you and meets the requirements of your BA or BA dual program.

And don't forget, if you're ever stuck or need advice, you can contact the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Student Administration team (<https://hass.uq.edu.au/contact>). You can contact the team by email or phone, or you can visit us in person. We are always happy to help.

Good luck, and we hope you enjoy studying the BA at The University of Queensland.