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## **Course Catalog**

**School for New Learning Undergraduate Studies**

**Summer/Autumn 2008-2009**

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# Administration

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies □ Administration

## Catalog Version

### **UNDERGRADUATE UPDATE: APRIL 15, 2008**

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School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies □ Administration □ Administration

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Catalog Version

# Academic Advisors

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies □ Academic Advisors

## **Academic Advisors**

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# Programs

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies ▢ Programs

## Programs

### PROGRAMS

The School for New Learning (SNL) is DePaul's college for adults. SNL offers a Bachelor of Arts with an individualized Focus Area, a Master of Arts in Applied Professional Studies, a Master of Arts in Educating Adults, and jointly with the College of Computing and Digital Media, a Bachelor of Arts in Computing and a Master of Science in Applied Technology. SNL also offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing jointly with the Department of Nursing., a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education, jointly with the School of Education, and a Bachelor of Arts in General Business, jointly with the College of Commerce. An undergraduate Focus Area in Leadership and a Graduate Focus Area in Parenting Education and Support are also offered.

SNL and the School of Education (SOE) sponsor a joint Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education (BAECE) degree program for adult students, and special audiences within the SOE population. The degree combines the SNL adult-learning focus in liberal and lifelong learning with the core requirements of SOEs undergraduate program in Early Childhood Education. The requirements of the traditional SOE degree are modified to reflect the experiences of adult students already working in the child care and education fields.

Besides serving the needs of current adult students and attracting new students to the University, the degree serves public interests by providing access to education for adult students as well as qualified early childhood teachers for the young children and their families in the metropolitan region who are most in need of such personnel.

The Bachelor of Arts in General Business combines the SNL adult-learning focus in liberal and lifelong learning with the core requirements of COCs undergraduate program. The degree is designed to offer students the flexibility and practicality of prior learning and relevant experience, with the benefits of SNL's competence-based curriculum.

SNL students take initiative to set their own educational goals and design their programs of learning.

The SNL degree programs are designed to help adults attain and demonstrate competence in specific areas that are characteristic of educated persons. At the undergraduate level, the SNL student must demonstrate 50 degree requirements, known as competencies, in the social sciences, humanities, physical sciences, humanities, studentship skills (such as communication, research, critical thinking, decision-making) and in an individualized or pre-set focus area. Competence statements in certain degree programs must be approved by certain Business, Computer Science or Nursing courses. Additional details about these requirements are available on the SNL website .

A consistent theme through all degree programs is the development of skills in independent inquiry, research, and reflection. Each student works with a faculty mentor and a professional advisor to determine competencies already mastered and to plan a program for satisfying the remaining competencies. Students may fulfill competencies in a variety of ways, including demonstrating college-level learning from previous experience, doing coursework at SNL or other accredited colleges, and undertaking independent learning projects.

Courses at SNL are offered in the evening, on weekends, and online. These courses, designed with the adult learner in mind, are offered by a talented and diverse group of experienced teachers,

scholars, practitioners and performers. Students are expected to participate actively in courses and to discover applications for the knowledge and skill gained.

Information sessions describing the program in greater detail are held regularly at DePauls Loop, OHare, Naperville , and Oak Forest campuses. To sign up and access additional information, go to <http://snl.depaul.edu>

# Admission

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies □ Admission

## **Admission**

Persons seeking undergraduate admission to SNL must initially complete the Learning Assessment Seminar (described below under Bachelor of Arts Degree Steps) prior to being admitted to degree-seeking status. Following this class, applicants submit written application materials which specify their goals and demonstrate understanding of the SNL program. Prior to acceptance, each applicant meets individually with an SNL staff person to discuss learning goals and to clarify issues about the SNL learning process.

# Bachelor of Arts Degree Steps

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies ▢ Bachelor of Arts Degree Steps

## Bachelor of Arts Degree Steps

Ten sequential degree steps are the core of the SNL learning experience, providing the tools necessary for self-directed learning. While several requirements can be satisfied by proficiency exams or transfer learning, most can only be satisfied by SNL coursework. Completion of these degree steps is mandatory; however, each student proceeds through the sequence at her or his own pace.

### LEARNING ASSESSMENT SEMINAR

The Learning Assessment Seminar is the first of the required courses in the Lifelong Learning Area and designed to help students make educational decisions in the context of their educational and personal goals, become well-versed in SNLs philosophy and competence framework, and make concrete plans for completion of their degree. This course is also the first step toward admission to baccalaureate degree-seeking status within SNL and carries two hours of academic credit. Competence: L1.

### FOUNDATIONS OF ADULT LEARNING

In this course, students explore the foundations of liberal education, examine ways of learning from experience, articulate educational goals and objectives, develop evidence of prior learning, and plan ways to fulfill remaining program requirements. At completion of the course, the student has written a learning plan, identified an area of inquiry, and acquired an academic committee (faculty mentor and a professional advisor) who will advise the student through the rest of his or her program, including the Externship and Advanced Project. **Competencies: L-2, L-3, F-1**

### ACADEMIC WRITING FOR ADULTS

This requirement focuses on writing skills associated with effective performance in a variety of settings. In a workshop format, students review and practice good writing essentials by building on strengths and improving areas of difficulty. **Competence: L-4**

### CRITICAL THINKING

This requirement introduces students to the concepts of critical thinking, careful listening, effective speaking and sound reasoning and provides an opportunity to practice these skills within an active and experiential context. **Competence: L-5**

### QUANTITATIVE REASONING

This requirement calls for students to use mathematical symbols, concepts, and methods to describe and solve problems. **Competence: L-6**

### COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

This requirement calls for students to learn collaboratively and examine the skills, knowledge, and values that contribute to such learning. **Competence: L-7**

### RESEARCH SEMINAR

This seminar advances the development of critical thinking and explores methods of formal inquiry as preparation for students Externship and Advanced Project. **Competencies: L-8, L-9**

### EXTERNSHIP

For the Externship, the student plans and executes an independent learning project or completes coursework which engages him/her in learning under new conditions and in reflecting on the methods of independent learning. **Competencies: L-10, L-11**

### ADVANCED PROJECT

The advanced project is a problem-solving experience which represents the culmination of a students learning in a specific area. The student designs and executes an independent project which demonstrates the integration of theory and practice, and the ability to pursue an avenue of inquiry with excellence. **Competencies: F-11, F-12**

## **SUMMIT SEMINAR**

After completing their learning programs to the satisfaction of their academic committee, students gather to evaluate their total learning experiences in the program, to examine their skills and attitudes as lifelong learners, and to set new goals for learning.

**Competence: L-12**

# Competence Areas

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies ▢ Competence Areas

## Competence Areas

The SNL curriculum is organized around the knowledge, skills and abilities that describe an educated adult in contemporary society. The undergraduate program is defined by a framework of 50 competencies grouped in three areas, the Lifelong Learning Area, the Individual Focus Area, and the Liberal Learning Area. The various statements of competence are designed to describe the outcomes of a liberal education; all student work, including prior learning, degree steps and courses, is directed toward accomplishing one or more of the required competencies. SNL courses are specifically designed to teach competencies. For most students, they are an efficient way to achieve competence within the SNL program. The Lifelong Learning Area encompasses twelve requirements that develop fundamental skills in reading, writing, goal setting, decision-making, teamwork, and research. Students may demonstrate some of these requirements by using independent learning projects or transfer coursework, in addition to specific SNL courses.

The Liberal Learning Area contains three categories that focus on liberal arts skills, knowledge, and attitudes: the Arts & Ideas, the Human Community, and the Scientific World.

Students must complete eight competencies in each of the categories and two additional Advanced Elective competencies. Six of these competencies in each of the Arts & Ideas, Human Community, and Scientific World categories are selected from an extensive menu of possibilities that are found within the subcategories in the category.

The individual Focus Area reflects the students individualized focus of study that comes out from their personal and professional goals. These twelve competencies are defined by the student with the advice and approval of his/her Academic Committee.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

Courses in the School for New Learning are designed for adult learners, 24 years of age and older. SNL courses are multi-disciplinary, and designed around problems, issuers or themes. The curriculum evolves from year-to-year to reflect the interests and needs of students.

Approximately 400 courses are offered through SNL each year. Most may be taken to satisfy either one or two competencies (two or four credit hours). See descriptions under Courses .

For registration instructions, see <http://snl.depaul.edu> .

# Individual Focus Area

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies ▢ Individual Focus Area

## **Individual Focus Area**

The Individual Focus Area is the part of a student's degree program where an area of particular interest is identified and designed. It may reflect a field of study, a goal to prepare for graduate school, a specific career goal, work or employment, or an avocation.

The Focus Area is intended to incorporate 12 competencies that fit individual and/or professional goals. Students work closely with a Faculty Mentor and a Professional Advisor who has expertise in this area of interest. Together they discuss and agree on competencies and learning experiences that are appropriate to these goals.

Students write your own competence statements that reflect the kind of preparation required to meet career or personal aspirations. This work is begun in *Foundations of Adult Learning* , and continued with the guidance of the Professional Advisor. These competencies can be satisfied by SNL courses , transfer courses and relevant college-level learning from experience.

The Bachelor of Arts in Computing, Bachelor of Arts in General Business, Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Focus Area in Leadership each have a series of pre-scribed competence statements in their Focus Areas that correspond to particular course requirements. See <http://snl.depaul.edu> for a list of these specific requirements.

# Liberal Learning Area

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies ▢ Liberal Learning Area

## **Liberal Learning Area**

The Liberal Learning Area encompasses those fields of study that are generally referred to as the Liberal Arts. Students must satisfy 26 competencies in this area.

These materials are divided into three categories: the Arts and Ideas (AI), the Human Community (HC), and the Scientific World (SW). Each of categories is further divided into three subcategories, representing different aspects of knowledge and understanding within the area. Each of these subcategories also includes an option to create an individualized or X competence.

In the Bachelor of Arts in Computing, Bachelor of Arts in General Business, Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education and Bachelor of Science in Nursing, some of these requirements are satisfied by particular coursework in Computer Science, Business, Education, and Nursing, respectively.

# Arts and Ideas Category

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies ▢ Arts and Ideas Category

## **Arts and Ideas Category**

This category includes competence in the arts, philosophy, theology, literature, and other fields that focus on expression of values and aesthetics. The three subcategories in the A area are: Interpreting the Arts, Creative Expression, and Reflection and Meaning. The 4th and 5th competencies in the category are required. Students must also choose at least one competence from each of the subcategory. Competencies are satisfied by SNL courses, transfer courses or relevant college-level learning from experiences.

# Human Community Category

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies □ Human Community Category

## **Human Community Category**

This category includes competencies in human relations, history, political science, and other fields closely aligned with the development and maintenance of human society. The three subcategories in the H area are: Communities and Society, Institutions and Organizations, and Individual Development. In the Human Community category, competencies 4 and 5 are required. Students must also choose at least one competence from each of the subcategory. Competencies in this category are satisfied by SNL courses , transfer courses or relevant college-level learning from experiences.

# The Scientific World Category

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies □ The Scientific World Category

## **The Scientific World Category**

This category includes competencies that grow out of fields related to scientific inquiry, technology, and relevant skills. The three subcategories in this area are: Experiencing Science, Patterns and Processes, and Science, Technology and Society. The 4th and 5th competencies in this category are required. Students must also choose at least one competence from each subcategory. These competencies are satisfied by SNL courses , transfer courses or relevant college-level learning from experiences/

# Courses

School for New Learning - Undergraduate Studies □ Courses

## **Courses**

Please visit Campus Connection at <https://campusconnect.depaul.edu> for current course information. If you do not have a password for Campus Connection you may log on as a guest. Once you are on Campus Connection please select Course Descriptions followed by the Category designation - Arts and Ideas (AI), Focus Area (FA), Human Community (HC), Independent Study (IN), Lifelong Learning (LL), and Scientific Word (SW).