

Academic Services and Programs

Undergraduate Programs

At The National Hispanic University, the academic year is organized on a semester system. Fall (August - December) and Spring (January - May), constitute the regular academic year followed by a Summer (June-August) session. The majority of NHU courses are equivalent to three (3) units of work

The requirements for a bachelor's degree and associate degree are explained in this catalog. In scheduling their classes each semester, students should carefully follow the curricula, both for the General Education (GE) Breadth requirements and the Major requirements. It is highly recommended that students consult with their Academic Advisor and begin to note their courses in the academic planner.

During the freshman year, students will start to satisfy the GE Breadth requirements. These courses will expose students to a range of academic subjects before concentrating on a major field of study. It is recommended that students complete their GE's by the end of their sophomore year. During the freshman and sophomore years, students will take lower division required courses that prepare them for the major. In addition, students should plan to complete NHU Core Courses.

During the Junior and Senior years at NHU, students concentrate on the upper division requirements for the major and complete any remaining courses to fulfill the units required for graduation.

Academic Advising

The purpose of Academic Advising is to assist students to realize their educational goals through the development and implementation of a personal academic program. Academic advising encompasses both academic learning as well as personal and professional growth and development.

Students are assigned individual Faculty Advisors at the time of admission into the University. Students meet at least once a semester with their advisors throughout their academic career at NHU.

Academic Advisors contribute to students' academic career by assisting them to:

- Understand NHU and its ideals, standards, policies, procedures and resources for students;
- Meet the challenge of being University students by establishing a clear relationship between the University's program and students' needs;
- Understand and appreciate their abilities, strengths and interests;
- Explore career options;
- Complete the "Academic Planning Form."

Graduation Requirements

It is the students' responsibility to comply with all regulations, and to satisfy all degree requirements.

Students are strongly encouraged to consult with the Chair of their major department or faculty advisor for proper advisement.

Department Chair will have the authority to approve substitutions for discontinued courses. Keep in mind that the University requires students declaring or changing their major to complete the Change of Major Form.

A break in continuous attendance will make students subject to the requirements in effect at the time of re-enrollment.

"Continuous Attendance" at NHU means attendance in at least one semester each calendar year. Absence due to an approved educational leave or for attendance at another institution of higher learning shall not be considered an interruption in attendance, if the absence does not exceed one year.

All students who enter NHU are required to pass the Junior Writing Proficiency Examination to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. Students should take the test during the first semester of their Junior year. Students can take the test twice in order to pass it. Those students who do not pass the test the first time will be referred by their advisors or department chair to sign up for tutorials in the Center for College Success (CCS). After participating in the CCS tutorials, the students can take the Junior Writing Proficiency Exam a second time. If they fail the test at the second attempt, then they will be required to take ENG 399. A grade of "C" or better in ENG399 satisfies NHU's upper division written English proficiency requirement. There is no administration fee.

Transfer Students

Graduation requirements for transfer students are the same as for undergraduates entering as freshman. Exceptions to this general rule are incorporated in this catalog, or will be determined by the Department Chair. Prospective transfer students are urged to consult the general academic regulations for undergraduates (particularly those relating to graduation and academic residency requirements) and the section on the student's major. Students who transfer credits from community colleges and/or universities should request an evaluation of their transcript before planning their course of study.

Students Transferring from NHU

Students planning to transfer to San Jose State University may complete their lower division (freshman and sophomore) general education requirements, general electives, and some pre-major preparatory courses while at NHU. NHU has articulated its general education courses and many lower division courses with SJSU, but because some majors require very specific pre-major requirements that NHU many not offer, it is recommended that students see an academic advisor prior to enrolling to ensure that an academic plan is developed that is suitable to reach the student's academic goals. It is also highly advised that students interested in transferring to SJSU consult the SJSU catalog and website for admission updates and specific issues regarding the programs they are interested in.

To be eligible to transfer to SJSU as an upper division student, you must:

- Have a college grade point average of a 2.0 (2.4 GPA for non-residents) in all transferable college coursework.
- Have completed 60 transferable semester units (90 quarter units), including 30 semester units of approved general education courses, including English composition, speech, critical thinking and a college-level math course.
- Be in good standing at the last college attended.

Students with fewer than 60 transferable semester units must:

- Must meet freshmen admission standard or make up any course deficiencies from high school preparation with college-level coursework.
- Have a 2.0 GPA in all transferable college coursework.
- Be in good standing at the last college attended.

Bachelor Degree

In order to meet the academic requirements for graduation with a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science Degree, students must:

- Complete a minimum of 125 semester units of college credits for the Bachelor of Arts degree and 128 semester units of college credits for the Bachelor of Science degree;
- Satisfy NHU General Education Breadth requirements as described in this catalog;
- Meet the requirements of Core Courses;
- Meet requirements for the major as described in the catalog;
- Complete a minimum of the University's 30 semester unit residency requirement, 12 of the 30 need to be in the major;
- Complete a minimum of 45 upper division units for graduation;
- Attain an overall grade point average of "C" (2.0) or higher with a "C" (2.0) or higher in all units attempted in the major;
- Satisfy the University's writing skills and computer proficiency requirements. Passing the university writing skills test, SAM 2007 computer proficiency test, satisfies the requirements.
- Satisfy the U.S. History and Constitution and American Ideals requirements. Taking U.S. History I (HIS 100) and History II (HIS 201) satisfy this requirement.

In addition, students must:

- File a Petition to Graduate with the Department Chair;
- Ensure that all financial obligations to the University have been met, including payment of outstanding fees.