



## **Program Guidebook**

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### **Bachelor of Science Business Administration, Management**

*The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Major in Management is a competency-based program that prepares graduates for a variety of careers in the field of business as an entry to intermediate level manager. Graduates with a major in Management will combine a set of general business competencies with a set of in-depth competencies from the field of management. These competencies align with the management of process, people and resources and are an excellent precursor for entry into an MBA program.*

## Understanding the Competency-Based Approach

Practically speaking, how do competency-based programs like those offered at Western Governors University (WGU) work? Unlike traditional universities, WGU does not award degrees based on completion of a certain number of credit hours or a certain set of required courses. Instead, you will earn your degree by demonstrating your skills, knowledge, and understanding of important concepts.

Progress through a degree program is governed not by the amount of time you spend in class but by your ability to demonstrate mastery of competencies as you complete required courses. Of course, you will need to engage in learning experiences as you review competencies or develop knowledge and skills in areas in which you may be weak. To help you acquire the knowledge and skills you need to complete your courses and program, WGU provides a rich array of learning resources. Your program mentor will work closely with you to help you understand the competencies required for your program and to help you create a schedule for completing your courses. You will also work closely with course instructors as you engage in each of your courses. As subject matter experts, course instructors will guide you through the content you must master to pass the course assessments.

The benefit of this competency-based system is that enables students who are knowledgeable about a particular subject to make accelerated progress toward completing a degree, even if they lack college experience. You may have gained skills and knowledge of a subject while on the job, accumulated wisdom through years of life experience, or already taken a course on a particular subject. WGU will award your degree based on the skills and knowledge that you possess and can demonstrate—not the number of credits hours on your transcript.

## Accreditation

Western Governors University is the only university in the history of American higher education to have earned accreditation from four regional accrediting commissions. WGU's accreditation was awarded by (1) the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, (2) the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, (3) the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and (4) the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The university's accreditation status is now managed by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), which reaffirmed WGU's accreditation in February 2020. The WGU Teachers College is accredited at the initial-licensure level by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP). The nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Health Information Management program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). The College of Business programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

## The Degree Plan

The focus of your program is your personalized Degree Plan. The Degree Plan is a detailed blueprint of the courses you will need to complete in order to earn your degree. The Degree Plan also lays out the accompanying learning resources and assessments that compose your program. The list of courses in the Degree Plan is often referred to as the standard path. The amount of time it takes to complete your program depends on both the amount of new information you need to learn and the amount of time you plan to devote each week to study. Your program mentor and course instructors will help you assess your strengths and development needs to establish a study plan.

Students vary widely in the specific skills and information they need to learn. For example, some students may be highly knowledgeable in a particular subject matter and would not need to engage in new learning opportunities. Other students may find that portions of the program require them to learn new information and that they need to take an online class or participate in a study module to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to fulfill program competencies in that area. Some individuals may be able to devote as little

as 15–20 hours per week to the program, while others may need to devote more time. For this reason, pre-assessments are there to help your program mentor form a profile of your prior knowledge and create a personalized Degree Plan.

## How You Will Interact with Faculty

At WGU, faculty serve in specialized roles, and they will work with you individually to provide the guidance, instruction, and support you will need to succeed and graduate. As a student, it is important for you to take advantage of this support. It is key to your progress and ultimate success. Upon your enrollment, you will be assigned a program mentor—an expert in your field of study who will provide you with regular program-level guidance and support from the day you start until the day you graduate. Your program mentor will set up regular telephone appointments (weekly at first) with you, which you will be expected to keep. The mentor will review program competencies with you and work with you to develop a plan and schedule for your coursework. Your program mentor will serve as your main point of contact throughout your program—helping you set weekly study goals, recommending specific learning materials, telling you what to expect in courses, and keeping you motivated. In addition to regular calls, your program mentor is available to help you resolve questions and concerns as they arise.

You will also be assigned to a course instructor for each course. Course instructors are doctoral-level subject matter experts who will assist your learning in each individual course. When you begin a new course, your assigned course instructor will actively monitor your progress and will be in touch to offer one-on-one instruction and to provide you with information about webinars, cohort sessions, and other learning opportunities available to help you acquire the competencies you need to master the course. Your course instructor can discuss your learning for the course, help you find answers to content questions, and give you the tools to navigate the course successfully. In addition, you will communicate with course instructors by posting in the online learning community and participating in live discussion sessions such as webinars and cohorts.

For many of the courses at WGU, you will be required to complete performance assessments. These include reports, papers, presentations, and projects that let you demonstrate your mastery of the required competencies. A separate group of faculty members, called evaluators, will review your work to determine whether it meets requirements. Evaluators are also subject matter experts in their field of evaluation. If your assessment needs further work before it “passes,” these evaluators, who review your work anonymously, will provide you with instructional feedback to help you meet evaluation standards and allow you to advance.

## Connecting with Other Mentors and Fellow Students

As you proceed through your Degree Plan, you will have direct contact with multiple faculty members. These communications can take a variety of forms, including participation in one-on-one discussions, chats in the learning communities, and live cohort and webinar opportunities. As a WGU student, you will have access to your own personal MyWGU Student Portal, which will provide a gateway to your courses of study, learning resources, and learning communities where you will interact with faculty and other students.

The learning resources in each course are specifically designed to support you as you develop competencies in preparation for your assessments. These learning resources may include reading materials, videos, tutorials, cohort opportunities, community discussions, and live discussions that are guided by course instructors who are experts in their field. You will access your program community during your orientation course to network with peers who are enrolled in your program and to receive continued support through professional enrichment and program-specific chats, blogs, and discussions. WGU also provides Student Services associates to help you and your program mentor solve any special problems that may arise.

## Orientation

The WGU orientation course focuses on acquainting you with WGU's competency-based model, distance education, technology, and other resources and tools available for students. You will also utilize WGU program and course communities, participate in activities, and get to know other students at WGU. The orientation course must be completed before you can start your first term at WGU.

## **Transferability of Prior College Coursework**

Because WGU is a competency-based institution, it does not award degrees based on credits but rather on demonstration of competency. However, if you have completed college coursework at another accredited institution, or if you have completed industry certifications, you may have your transcripts and certifications evaluated to determine if you are eligible to receive some transfer credit. The guidelines for determining what credits will be granted varies based on the degree program. Students entering graduate programs must have their undergraduate degree verified before being admitted to WGU. To review more information in regards to transfer guidelines based on the different degree programs, you may visit the Student Handbook found at the link below and search for "Transfer Credit Evaluation."

[Click here for the Student Handbook](#)

WGU does not waive any requirements based on a student's professional experience and does not perform a "résumé review" or "portfolio review" that will automatically waive any degree requirements. Degree requirements and transferability rules are subject to change in order to keep the degree content relevant and current.

Remember, WGU's competency-based approach lets you take advantage of your knowledge and skills, regardless of how you obtained them. Even when you do not directly receive credit, the knowledge you possess may help you accelerate the time it takes to complete your degree program.

## **Continuous Enrollment, On Time Progress, and Satisfactory Academic Progress**

WGU is a "continuous enrollment" institution, which means you will be automatically enrolled in each of your new terms while you are at WGU. Each term is six months long. Longer terms and continuous enrollment allow you to focus on your studies without the hassle of unnatural breaks between terms that you would experience at a more traditional university. At the end of every six-month term, you and your program mentor will review the progress you have made and revise your Degree Plan for your next six-month term.

WGU requires that students make measurable progress toward the completion of their degree programs every term. We call this "On-Time Progress," denoting that you are on track and making progress toward on-time graduation. As full-time students, graduate students must enroll in at least 8 competency units each term, and undergraduate students must enroll in at least 12 competency units each term.

Completing at least these minimum enrollments is essential to On-Time Progress and serves as a baseline from which you may accelerate your program. We measure your progress based on the courses you are able to pass, not on your accumulation of credit hours or course grades. Every time you pass a course, you are demonstrating that you have mastered skills and knowledge in your degree program. For comparison to traditional grading systems, passing a course means you have demonstrated competency equivalent to a "B" grade or better.

WGU assigns competency units to each course in order to track your progress through the program. A competency unit is equivalent to one semester credit of learning. Some courses may be assigned 3 competency units while others may be as large as 12 competency units.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is particularly important to students on financial aid because you must achieve SAP in order to maintain eligibility for financial aid. We will measure your SAP quantitatively by reviewing the number of competency units you have completed each term. In order to remain in good

academic standing, you must complete at least 66.67% of the units you attempt over the length of your program—including any courses you add to your term to accelerate your progress. Additionally, during your first term at WGU you must pass at least 3 competency units in order to remain eligible for financial aid. We know that SAP is complex, so please contact a financial aid counselor should you have additional questions. \*Please note: The Endorsement Preparation Program in Educational Leadership is not eligible for federal financial aid.

## Courses

Your Degree Plan includes courses needed to complete your program. To obtain your degree, you will be required to demonstrate your skills and knowledge by completing the assessment(s) for each course. In general there are two types of assessments: performance assessments and objective assessments. Performance assessments contain, in most cases, multiple scored tasks such as projects, essays, and research papers. Objective assessments include multiple-choice items, multiple-selection items, matching, short answer, drag-and-drop, and point-and-click item types, as well as case study and video-based items. Certifications verified through third parties may also be included in your program. More detailed information about each assessment is provided in each course of study.

## Learning Resources

WGU works with many different educational partners, including enterprises, publishers, training companies, and higher educational institutions, to provide high-quality and effective learning resources that match the competencies you are developing. These vary in type, and may be combined to create the best learning experience for your course. A learning resource can be an e-textbook, online module, study guide, simulation, virtual lab, tutorial, or a combination of these. The cost of most learning resources are included in your tuition and Learning Resource Fee. They can be accessed or enrolled for through your courses. Some degree-specific resources are not covered by your tuition, and you will need to cover those costs separately. WGU also provides a robust library to help you obtain additional learning resources, as needed.

Mobile Compatibility:

The following article provides additional details about the current state of mobile compatibility for learning resources at WGU. It includes a list that can be referenced to determine the mobile friendliness of all core course materials used in a program.

[Student Handbook article: Can I use my mobile device for learning resources?](#)

## Standard Path

As previously mentioned, competency units (CUs) have been assigned to each course in order to measure your academic progress. If you are an undergraduate student, you will be expected to enroll in a minimum of 12 competency units each term. Graduate students are expected to enroll in a minimum of 8 competency units each term. A standard plan for a student for this program who entered WGU without any transfer units would look similar to the one on the following page. Your personal progress can be faster, but your pace will be determined by the extent of your transfer units, your time commitment, and your determination to proceed at a faster rate.

## Standard Path for Bachelor of Science Business Administration, Management

Course Description	CUs	Term
Fundamentals for Success in Business	3	1
Introduction to Spreadsheets	1	1
Best Practices in Management: Projects, Staffing, Scheduling, and Budgeting	4	1
Applied Probability and Statistics	3	1
Principles of Financial and Managerial Accounting	3	1
Information Technology Management Essentials	3	2
English Composition I	3	2
Finance Skills for Managers	3	2
Concepts in Marketing, Sales, and Customer Contact	3	2
Introduction to Communication	3	3
Principles of Economics	3	3
Business Environment Applications I: Business Structures and Legal Environment	2	3
Business Environment Applications II: Process, Logistics, and Operations	2	3
Managing in a Global Business Environment	3	3
Critical Thinking and Logic	3	4
Innovative and Strategic Thinking	3	4
Emotional and Cultural Intelligence	3	4
Business Core Capstone: An Integrated Application	4	4
Organizational Behavior	3	5
English Composition II	3	5
Applied Algebra	3	5
Introduction to Human Resource Management	3	5
Workforce Planning: Recruitment and Selection	3	6
Introduction to Sociology	3	6
Marketing Applications	3	6
Employment Law	3	6
Integrated Physical Sciences	3	7
Compensation and Benefits	3	7
Introduction to IT	4	7
Business Communication	3	7
Training and Development	3	8
Survey of United States History	3	8
Project Management	3	8
Digital Marketing	3	8
Quantitative Analysis For Business	3	9

Course Description	CUs	Term
Introduction to Humanities	3	9
Change Management	3	9
Sales Management	3	9
Operations and Supply Chain Management	3	10
Business Management Tasks	3	10
Business Management Capstone Written Project	4	10

## Changes to Curriculum

WGU publishes an Institutional Catalog, which describes the academic requirements of each degree program. Although students are required to complete the program version current at the time of their enrollment, WGU may modify requirements and course offerings within that version of the program to maintain the currency and relevance of WGU's competencies and programs. As these changes are implemented, WGU will ensure that the length of the student's degree program (i.e., total competency unit requirements) will not increase and that competency units already earned will be applied to the updated program version. When program requirements are updated, students readmitting after withdrawal from the university will be expected to re-enter into the most current catalog version of the program.

# Areas of Study for Bachelor of Science Business Administration, Management

The following section includes the areas of study in the program, with their associated courses. Your specific learning resources and level of instructional support will vary based on the individual competencies you bring to the program and your confidence in developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required in each area of the degree. The Degree Plan and learning resources are dynamic, so you need to review your Degree Plan and seek the advice of your mentor regarding the resources before you purchase them.

## Business Core

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### Fundamentals for Success in Business

This introductory course provides students with an overview of the field of business and a basic understanding of how management, organizational structure, communication, and leadership styles affect the business environment. It also introduces them to some of the power skills that help make successful business professionals, including time management, problem solving, emotional intelligence and innovation; while also teaching them the importance of ethics. This course gives students an opportunity to begin to explore their own strengths and passions in relation to the field while also acclimating them to the online competency-based environment.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate identifies leadership opportunities to enhance organizational performance.*
- *The graduate communicates ideas, opinions, and information suitable for a professional setting.*
- *The graduate recognizes common organizational functions and values in order to collaborate within them.*
- *The graduate recognizes the emotional reactions of self and others in a variety of professional situations.*
- *The graduate identifies common ethical issues that individuals face within organizations.*

### Best Practices in Management: Projects, Staffing, Scheduling, and Budgeting

Best Practices in Management: Projects, Staffing, Scheduling, and Budgeting provides students with an introductory look at the discipline of management and its context within the business environment. Students of this course build on previously mastered competencies by taking a more in-depth look at management as a discipline and how it differs from leadership while further exploring the importance of communication within business. This course provides students with a business generalist overview in the areas of strategic decision-making and operational planning, managerial budgeting, change management, human capital management, staff development, and conflict management.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate applies people management tools to achieve stated organizational outcomes.*
- *The graduate identifies leadership and management attributes in order to differentiate between roles.*
- *The graduate applies communication strategies for managers that are suitable for the target audience.*
- *The graduate identifies the impact of long-term strategic goals at the departmental level.*

### Principles of Financial and Managerial Accounting

Principles of Accounting provides students with an introduction to the discipline of accounting and its context within the business environment. In this course, students will learn to differentiate between financial, cost, and managerial accounting and where these accounting types fit into the business environment. This course will help students gain a fundamental knowledge of the budgeting process, how to analyze basic financial statements, and how to use spreadsheets to analyze data. This course provides students with a business generalist overview of the field of accounting and acts as a preview course for the accounting major. The following course is a prerequisite: Basic Spreadsheet Literacy.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate explains how controlling costs and profits affects an organization.*
- *The graduate determines the elements and processes involved in managing a company's cash flows and operating cycle.*
- *The graduate explains how financial statements assist decision-making.*



- *The graduate explains how various costing methodologies assist internal decision-making.*
- *The graduate explains how managerial cost information assists internal decision-making.*
- *The graduate identifies the role of accounting information and the purpose of the accounting cycle in decision-making.*

### **Information Technology Management Essentials**

Information Technology Management Essentials includes topics such as information systems analysis, database resource management, spreadsheet literacy, and computer literacy concepts. This course will help students understand the importance of information technology in an organization and apply databases to solve business problems. This course serves as a preview course for the ITM major. Introduction to Spreadsheets is a prerequisite for this course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate explains how IT enables business operations.*
- *The graduate describes business value, design, and management of information systems.*
- *The graduate applies data management tools and processes for business tasks.*
- *The graduate describes the role of emerging technologies in a business environment.*

### **Finance Skills for Managers**

This course provides students with an introductory look at the discipline of finance and its context within the business environment. Students gain the knowledge to differentiate between personal and business finance and how they may overlap in a business environment. Students also gain a fundamental knowledge of financial forecasting and budgeting, statement analysis, and decision making. This course provides the student a business generalist overview of the field of finance and builds on previous acquired competencies related to using spreadsheets.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate identifies the systems, structure, roles, and impact of finance in the business environment.*
- *The graduate utilizes the appropriate financial tools and techniques to inform limited financial investment decisions.*
- *The graduate uses financial statements to determine the health of a business organization.*
- *The graduate identifies how financial forecasting and budgeting helps individuals and organizations plan for future financial needs.*
- *The graduate utilizes interest rates, time value of money, and risk and return principles to inform financial business decisions.*

### **Concepts in Marketing, Sales, and Customer Contact**

Concepts in Marketing, Sales, and Customer Contact introduces students to the discipline of marketing and its role within the strategic and operational environments of a business. This course covers fundamental knowledge in the area of marketing planning, including the marketing mix, while also describing basic concepts of brand management, digital marketing, customer relationship management, and personal selling and negotiating. All of this helps students identify the role of marketing within an organization. This course provides students with a business generalist overview of the field of marketing and an exploration of the marketing major.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate describes how strategic marketing influences the overall success of a business.*
- *The graduate identifies personal selling and negotiating strategies within the sales management process.*
- *The graduate describes basic elements used in marketing planning.*

### **Business Environment Applications I: Business Structures and Legal Environment**

Business Environment Applications 1 provides students with a generalist overview of the business environment and a deeper look at a number of topics that make up the non-discipline areas of business which are required for a business person to be successful within any business environment. The first part of the course focuses on knowledge about organizations and how people operate within organizations, including the areas of organizational theory, structure, and effectiveness. The course then looks at business from a legal perspective with an overview of the legal environment of business. The course will prepare the student to consider specific legal situations and to make legal and ethical decisions related to those situations.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate describes common legal considerations for the creation and operation of a business operation.*
- *The graduate explains how the structure of an organization impacts its effectiveness in the context of critical circumstances.*

## **Business Environment Applications II: Process, Logistics, and Operations**

Business Environment II: Logistics, Process, and Operations provides students with a generalist overview of the business environment as they explore themes of ethics, problem-solving, and innovative thinking. This course adds to the students' business skills and knowledge in a number of professional areas. The first part of the course uncovers a series of business processes like project and risk management. The second part gives an introductory-level look at the specialized areas of operations management, supply chains, and logistics. The course finishes with models of change management and how to use them to overcome barriers in organizations.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate explains how project management concepts can help an organization achieve its goals.*
- *The graduate explains how logistics are important to the operations of a successful organization.*
- *The graduate applies change management models to help an organization achieve its goals.*

## **Managing in a Global Business Environment**

Managing in a Global Business Environment provides students with a generalist overview of business from a global perspective, while also developing basic skills and knowledge to help them make strategic decisions, communicate, and develop personal relationships in a global environment. Business today is by its very nature a global environment, and individuals working in business will experience the global nature of business as they progress through their careers. This course builds on previously acquired competencies by providing an overview of U.S. federal laws in relation to doing business in a global environment.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate compares the effectiveness of business strategies in the global business environment.*
- *The graduate describes how financial and operational practices influence global business.*
- *The graduate defines globalization and its major driving forces.*
- *The graduate describes the regulatory and ethical aspects of global business.*
- *The graduate describes technologies and trends in the global business environment.*

## **Innovative and Strategic Thinking**

This course covers an important part of being a business professional: the knowledge and skills used in building and implementing business strategy. The course helps students build on previously acquired competencies in the areas of management, innovative thinking, and risk management while introducing them to the concepts and theories underpinning business strategy as a general business perspective. The course will help students gain skills in analyzing different business environments and in using quantitative literacy and data analysis in business strategy development and implementation. This course helps to provide students with a generalist overview of the area of business strategy.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate utilizes evidence-based techniques to make strategic decisions.*
- *The graduate identifies the impact of innovation in personal and professional settings.*
- *The graduate applies appropriate business practices to formulate recommendations that impact organizational effectiveness.*

## **Emotional and Cultural Intelligence**

Emotional and Cultural Intelligence focuses on key personal awareness skills that businesses request when hiring personnel. Key among those abilities is communication. Students will increase their skills in written, verbal, and nonverbal communication skills. The course then looks at three areas of personal awareness including emotional intelligence (EI), cultural awareness, and ethical self-awareness – building on previously acquired competencies and adding new ones. This course helps start students on a road of self-discovery, cultivating awareness to improve both as a business professional and personally.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate applies emotional intelligence (EI) to improve intrapersonal and interpersonal interactions.*
- *The graduate demonstrates cultural intelligence (CI) within multicultural and contemporary business situations.*

## Spreadsheets

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### Introduction to Spreadsheets

The Introduction to Spreadsheets course will help students become proficient in using spreadsheets to analyze business problems. Students will demonstrate competency in spreadsheet development and analysis for business applications (e.g., using essential spreadsheet functions, formulas, tables, charts, etc.). Introduction to Spreadsheets has no prerequisites.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate creates tables to summarize and analyze data to make decisions.*
- *The graduate creates data visualizations using charts and graphs for use in a professional setting.*
- *The graduate applies appropriate formulas and functions to aggregate and summarize spreadsheet data.*
- *The graduate creates formatted spreadsheets, using appropriate functions to organize and present data effectively.*

## General Education

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### Applied Probability and Statistics

Applied Probability and Statistics helps candidates develop competence in the fundamental concepts of basic statistics including introductory algebra and graphing; descriptive statistics; regression and correlation; and probability. Statistical data and probability are used in everyday life, science, business, information technology, and educational settings to make informed decisions about the validity of studies and the effect of data on decisions. This course discusses what constitutes sound research design and how to appropriately model phenomena using statistical data. Additionally, the content covers simple probability calculations based on events that occur in the business and IT industries. No prerequisites are required for this course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate applies the operations, processes, and procedures of basic algebra to evaluate quantitative expressions, and to solve equations and inequalities.*
- *The graduate evaluates the relationship between two variables through interpretation of visual displays and numerical measures.*
- *The graduate evaluates categorical and quantitative data pertaining to a single variable using appropriate graphical displays and numerical measures.*
- *The graduate evaluates the relationship between two quantitative variables through correlation and regression.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate applies principles and methods of probability-based mathematics to explain and solve problems.*
- *The graduate applies the operations, processes, and procedures of fractions, decimals, and percentages to evaluate quantitative expressions.*

### English Composition I

English Composition I introduces candidates to the types of writing and thinking that are valued in college and beyond. Candidates will practice writing in several genres with emphasis placed on writing and revising academic arguments. Instruction and exercises in grammar, mechanics, research documentation, and style are paired with each module so that writers can practice these skills as necessary. Composition I is a foundational course designed to help candidates prepare for success at the college level. There are no prerequisites for English Composition I.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate selects appropriate rhetorical strategies that improve writing and argumentation.*
- *The graduate uses appropriate writing and revision strategies.*
- *The graduate applies appropriate grammatical rules, sentence structure, and writing conventions.*

- *The graduate appropriately uses a given writing style.*
- *The graduate composes an appropriate narrative for a given context.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate composes an appropriate argumentative essay for a given context.*
- *The graduate integrates credible and relevant sources into written arguments.*

## **Introduction to Communication**

This introductory communication course allows candidates to become familiar with the fundamental communication theories and practices necessary to engage in healthy professional and personal relationships. Candidates will survey human communication on multiple levels and critically apply the theoretical grounding of the course to interpersonal, intercultural, small group, and public presentational contexts. The course also encourages candidates to consider the influence of language, perception, culture, and media on their daily communicative interactions. In addition to theory, candidates will engage in the application of effective communication skills through systematically preparing and delivering an oral presentation. By practicing these fundamental skills in human communication, candidates become more competent communicators as they develop more flexible, useful, and discriminatory communicative practices in a variety of contexts. Note: There are references within this video to Taskstream. If Taskstream is not part of your student experience, please disregard, and locate your task(s) within your course.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate utilizes appropriate presentational communication strategies in personal and professional settings.*
- *The graduate applies foundational elements of effective communication.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate applies appropriate communication strategies in interpersonal and group contexts.*

## **Critical Thinking and Logic**

Reasoning and Problem Solving helps candidates internalize a systematic process for exploring issues that takes them beyond an unexamined point of view and encourages them to become more self-aware thinkers by applying principles of problem identification and clarification, planning and information gathering, identifying assumptions and values, analyzing and interpreting information and data, reaching well-founded conclusions, and identifying the role of critical thinking in disciplines and professions.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate recognizes the value of critical thinking in identifying and understanding the underlying structures of the disciplines and professions.*
- *The graduate identifies internal and external biases and assumptions related to a problem, and evaluates the influence and validity of these biases and assumptions.*
- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate logically brings together information to arrive at a viable solution to a problem, and then clearly and accurately communicates the results.*
- *The graduate analyzes open-ended problems by learning about the problem and evaluating the accuracy and relevance of different perspectives on the problem.*
- *The graduate synthesizes information to understand a problem's complexities and potential solutions, and then evaluates the reasoning and evidence in support of these different solutions.*
- *The graduate evaluates different sources representing a range of perspectives on a problem in order to weigh the implications and consequences of different solutions to the problem.*

## **English Composition II**

English Composition II introduces candidates to the types of research and writing that are valued in college and beyond. Candidates will practice writing, with emphasis placed on research, writing, and revising an academic argument. Instruction and exercises in grammar, mechanics, research documentation, and style are paired with each module so that writers can practice these skills as necessary. Composition II is a foundational course designed to help candidates prepare for success at the college level. Composition I is the prerequisite for Composition II.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate composes an argumentative research paper.*
- *The graduate applies steps of the writing process appropriately to improve quality of writing.*
- *The graduate evaluates the quality, credibility, and relevance of evidence in order to integrate evidence into a final research paper.*

## **Applied Algebra**

Applied Algebra is designed to help candidates develop competence in working with functions, working with the algebra of functions, and using some applied properties of functions. Candidates will learn how to apply different kinds of functions to relevant, real-life examples. From there, the algebra of several families of functions will be explored, including linear, polynomial, exponential, and logistic functions. Candidates will also learn about relevant, applicable mathematical properties of each family of functions, including rate of change, concavity, maximizing/minimizing, and asymptotes. These properties will be used to solve problems related to a WGU major and make sense of problems in everyday living. Candidates should complete Applied Probability and Statistics or its equivalent prior to engaging in Applied Algebra.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate applies linear functions and their properties to real-world problems.*
- *The graduate verifies the validity of a given model.*
- *The graduate applies exponential functions and their properties to real-world problems.*
- *The graduate interprets the real-world meaning of various functions based on notation, graphical representations, and data representations.*
- *The graduate analyzes graphical depictions of real-world situations using functional properties.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate applies logistic functions and their properties to real-world problems.*
- *The graduate applies polynomial functions and their properties to real-world problems.*

## **Introduction to Sociology**

This course teaches students to think like sociologists, or, in other words, to see and understand the hidden rules, or norms, by which people live, and how they free or restrain behavior. Students will learn about socializing institutions, such as schools and families, as well as workplace organizations and governments. Participants will also learn how people deviate from the rules by challenging norms and how such behavior may result in social change, either on a large scale or within small groups.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate explains major perspectives and key contributors to the development of sociology.*
- *The graduate explains the constructs of conformity to and deviance from social norms.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate explains reciprocal relationships between social institutions and individuals.*
- *The graduate explains how societies are stratified across various social statuses.*
- *The graduate identifies components of culture and socialization as they relate to individuals in society.*

## **Survey of United States History**

This course presents a broad and thematic survey of U.S. history from European colonization to the mid-twentieth century. Students will explore how historical events and major themes in American history have affected a diverse population.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate analyzes the colonial experience and the foundations of the American Revolution.*
- *The graduate analyzes the challenges of partisan politics and sectionalism in the Early Republic and Civil War eras.*

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate examines the major changes that defined the United States in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.*
- *The graduate explains significant international and domestic challenges that the United States confronted since World War I.*

## **Introduction to Humanities**

This introductory humanities course allows candidates to practice essential writing, communication, and critical thinking skills necessary to engage in civic and professional interactions as mature, informed adults. Whether through studying literature, visual and performing arts, or philosophy, all humanities courses stress the need to form reasoned, analytical, and articulate responses to cultural and creative works. Studying a wide variety of creative works allows candidates to more effectively enter the global community with a broad and enlightened perspective.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate assesses the development of humans through the study of key concepts, disciplines, and primary influences of the humanities.*
- *The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Romantic period.*
- *The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Neoclassical and Enlightenment period.*
- *The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Classical period.*
- *The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Realism movement.*
- *The graduate analyzes the primary contributions and characteristics of humanities during the Renaissance.*

## **Economics**

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### **Principles of Economics**

Principles of Economics provides students with the knowledge they need to be successful managers, including basic economic theories related to markets and how markets function. This course starts by defining economics, differentiating between microeconomics and macroeconomics, and explaining the fundamental economic principles of each. It then looks at microeconomics and how it is used to make business and public policy decisions, including the principles of supply, demand, and elasticity, market efficiency, cost of production, and different market structures. The course finishes by looking at macroeconomics and how it is used to make business and public policy decisions, including measurement of macroeconomic variables, aggregate supply and demand, the concepts of an open economy, and how trade policies influence domestic and international markets.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate explains concepts in macroeconomics used in business and public policy decisions.*
- *The graduate explains concepts in microeconomics used in business and public policy decisions.*
- *The graduate explains fundamental economic principles used in microeconomics and macroeconomics.*

## **Business**

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### **Business Core Capstone: An Integrated Application**

This course ties together all the skills and knowledge covered in the business common core courses and allows the student to prove their mastery of the competencies by applying them in a simulated business environment. This course will help take the student's knowledge and skills from the theoretical to applicable.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate applies the competencies from across the business core curriculum, demonstrating the ability to lead the implementation of the mission, strategy, and goals of an organization.*

### **Organizational Behavior**

Organizational Behavior explores how to lead and manage effectively in diverse business environments. The course requires students to demonstrate the ability to apply organizational leadership theories and management strategies in a series of scenario-based problems.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate can recommend appropriate principles or techniques for guiding the development of a group.*
- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate can determine which type of team and team leadership should be used to accomplish a task or project.*
- *The graduate can develop and recommend how to implement effective performance evaluation processes.*
- *The graduate can describe the effects of specified influences on individual behavior.*
- *The graduate analyzes the culture within an organization to determine how to work effectively within that organization.*
- *The graduate can analyze leadership theories, methods, and tools in given situations and select the appropriate behavior of the leader.*

## **Business Communication**

Business Communication is a survey course of communication skills needed in the business environment. Course content includes writing messages, reports, and résumés and delivering oral presentations. The course emphasizes communication processes, writing skills, message types, and presentation of data. The development of these skills is integrated with the use of technology.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate composes multiple types of business messages in response to scenarios.*
- *The graduate applies the principles of business writing to communicate in a business environment.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate applies effective communication techniques and principles to business environments.*
- *The graduate applies business research and writing skills to present information in a business environment.*
- *The graduate creates messages using technology and/or social media to communicate in a business environment.*
- *The graduate creates professional communication documents for employment and career advancement opportunities.*

## **Human Resources**

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### **Introduction to Human Resource Management**

This course provides an introduction to the management of human resources, the function within an organization that focuses on recruitment, management, and direction for the people who work in the organization. Students will be introduced to topics such as strategic workforce planning and employment; compensation and benefits; training and development; employee and labor relations; and occupational health, safety, and security.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate explains common training and development activities that improve an employee's current and future job performance.*
- *The graduate explains the process of recruiting a qualified group of candidates.*
- *The graduate identifies a system for measuring, evaluating, and influencing an employee's work performance.*
- *The graduate forecasts the human resource needs of the organization and plans the steps necessary to meet those needs.*
- *The graduate explains the employment relationship and influential factors.*
- *The graduate articulates the strategic roles of human resource management.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate explains the process of selecting employee(s) for a position.*
- *The graduate evaluates the contributions of employees in order to distribute direct and indirect monetary, and non-*

monetary, rewards.

## **Workforce Planning: Recruitment and Selection**

This course focuses on building a highly skilled workforce by using effective strategies and tactics for recruiting, selecting, hiring, and retaining employees.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate identifies employee-relations activities, policies, and procedures for balancing the rights of employer and employee in order to support strategic goals, objectives, and values of the organization.*
- *The graduate manages the recruitment process.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate evaluates jobs and develops job descriptions.*
- *The graduate develops a plan for recruiting employees.*
- *The graduate develops a strategy for selecting and hiring employees.*

## **Compensation and Benefits**

Compensation and Benefits develops competence in the design and implementation of compensation and benefits systems in an organization. The total rewards perspective integrates tangible rewards (e.g., salary, bonuses) with employee benefits (e.g., health insurance, retirement plan) and intangible rewards (e.g., location, work environment). This perspective allows students to use all forms of rewards fairly and effectively to enable job satisfaction and organizational performance. There are no prerequisites.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate interprets market reward surveys to anchor pay levels and pay mixes for benchmark jobs.*
- *The graduate effectively and legally manages employee benefits to minimize risk and maximize employee attraction and retention.*
- *The graduate evaluates pay types and systems with consideration for their motivational foundations.*
- *The graduate explains a total rewards strategy that utilizes various forms of rewards while fitting with the organizational strategy, human resources strategy, and business environment.*
- *The graduate analyzes how employees and organizations create and value intangible rewards, integrating them with tangible forms of rewards.*
- *The graduate evaluates the value of jobs and capabilities within an organization, producing a job-value structure that enables internal reward equity.*

## **Training and Development**

Training and Development focuses on the development of human capital (i.e., growing talent) by applying effective learning theories and practices for training and developing employees. The course will help develop essential skills for improving and empowering organizations through high-caliber training and development processes. There are no prerequisites.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate determines the best practices for training transfer and accurate evaluation of training programs.*
- *The graduate develops the organization's talent management programs, including career management, performance management, and leadership development.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate develops performance management and evaluation at an operational level.*
- *The graduate manages training and development programs to ensure the workforce has the necessary knowledge, skills, abilities, and other characteristics to meet present and future organizational needs.*
- *The graduate explains the need for training and development within the context of the strategic success of an*



organization.

## Marketing and Communication

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### Marketing Applications

Marketing Applications allows students to apply their knowledge of core marketing principles by creating a comprehensive marketing plan. The plan will apply knowledge of the marketing planning process, market analysis, and the marketing mix (product, place, promotion, and price).

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate can create a marketing plan.*
- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*

## Business Law and Ethics

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### Employment Law

This course reviews the legal and regulatory framework surrounding employment, including recruitment, termination, and discrimination law. The course topics include employment-at-will, EEO, ADA, OSHA, and other laws affecting the workplace. This course covers how to analyze current trends and issues in employment law and apply this knowledge to manage risk effectively in the employment relationship.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate assesses compliance with employment laws governing the employment relationship.*
- *The graduate explains the U.S. legal environment governing the employment relationship.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate explains statutory, administrative, and judicial decisions affecting labor relations.*
- *The graduate recommends strategies to prevent discrimination and limit employer risk.*
- *The graduate manages compliance with workplace regulations.*

## General Science Content

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### Integrated Physical Sciences

This course provides students with an overview of the basic principles and unifying ideas of the physical sciences: physics, chemistry, and earth sciences. Course materials focus on scientific reasoning and practical, everyday applications of physical science concepts to help students integrate conceptual knowledge with practical skills.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate examines applications of physics including fundamental concepts such as forces, motion, energy, and waves.*
- *The graduate describes the underlying organization, interactions, and processes within the Earth system including the Earth's structure and atmosphere, and Earth's interactions within the solar system.*
- *The graduate examines applications of key chemistry concepts including the structure of matter and the behavior and conservation of matter in chemical reactions.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate describes the nature and process of science.*

## IT Fundamentals

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### Introduction to IT

Introduction to IT examines information technology as a discipline and the various roles and functions of the IT department as business support. Students are presented with various IT disciplines including systems and services, network and

security, scripting and programming, data management, and business of IT, with a survey of technologies in every area and how they relate to each other and to the business.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate explains the role of technology in today's business environment and describes basic concepts of project management.*
- *The graduate describes information technology systems and their role in converting data to organizational knowledge.*
- *The graduate describes the structure, function, and security associated with networks.*
- *The graduate evaluates ethical concerns involved in the use of technology.*
- *The graduate identifies common software architectures, development techniques, and the relationship between software and its environment.*
- *The graduate recognizes and describes functions of basic computer hardware components.*
- *The graduate explains the structure and function of databases.*
- *The graduate describes IT as a discipline and discusses the history and future of computing as well as the currently used infrastructure.*
- *The graduate identifies the role of different types of software in a computing environment and explains the fundamentals of software development.*

## **Management**

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### **Project Management**

Project Management prepares students to manage projects from start to finish within any organizational structure. The course presents a view into different project management methods and delves into topics such as project profiling and phases, constraints, building the project team, scheduling, and risk. This course helps students grasp the full scope of future projects and apply the proper management approaches to complete a project. This course features practice in each of the project phases as students learn to strategically apply project management tools and techniques to help organizations achieve their goals.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate explains the criteria and methods used for project selection.*
- *The graduate describes the project life cycle, including how project constraints will impact a project.*
- *The graduate explains how project management helps organizations achieve their goals.*
- *The graduate constructs a project scheduling network diagram including the identification of the critical path.*
- *The graduate explains how different types of project-management methods are used.*
- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate applies elements of project planning to prepare key documents of a project plan.*
- *The graduate explains key activities for executing, monitoring and controlling, and closing projects.*

### **Change Management**

Change Management provides an understanding of change and an overview of successfully managing change using various methods and tools. Emphasizing change theories and various best practices, this course covers how to recognize and implement change using an array of other effective strategies, including those related to innovation and leadership. Other topics include approaches to change, diagnosing and planning for change, implementing change, and sustaining change.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate describes different innovation strategies and the role leaders play in innovation.*
- *The graduate summarizes the theories related to change management.*
- *The graduate explains how learning organizations develop and how learning organizations and traditional organizations approach change differently.*
- *The graduate explains how organizations diagnose the need for change and the approaches for implementing change.*

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate explains the various approaches to implementing change and the roles that leaders and other stakeholders fulfill.*
- *The graduate explains the strategies, principles, roles, and models for sustaining change.*

## Marketing Management

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### Digital Marketing

This course provides students with a knowledge of digital marketing and an introduction to specializations within digital marketing. Foundational knowledge in the areas of content marketing, digital advertising, search engine optimization, social media, web development and analysis, and marketing automation is provided. Students gain a broad overview of digital marketing and an opportunity to explore specific areas of specialization within the field of digital marketing to understand how digital marketing is integrated within a firm's overall marketing strategy.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate describes how marketing automation supports an organization's mission and business goals.*
- *The graduate explains how search engine optimization and digital advertising support an organization's mission and business goals.*
- *The graduate describes web development and analysis in support of an organization's mission and business goals.*
- *The graduate describes how content marketing supports an organization's mission and business goals.*
- *The graduate describes how social media marketing integrates with an organization's mission and business goals.*
- *The graduate identifies digital marketing strategies to support an organization's mission and business goals.*

### Sales Management

This course provides students with knowledge on the sales profession, customer relationship management, and sales management functions. Students gain insights into the sales process, the relationship between sales and marketing, and the responsibilities of sales management within both business-to-consumer (B2C) and business-to-business (B2B) selling environments.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate applies quantitative and qualitative analysis in the sales planning process to set and monitor financial goals.*
- *The graduate describes the formation of a sales force organization that supports an organization's business goals.*
- *The graduate describes the process of managing and motivating a sales force to support an organization's business goals.*
- *The graduate explains how customer relationship management supports an organization's business goals.*
- *The graduate explains how organizational buying supports an organization's business goals.*
- *The graduate explains the relationship of sellers and buyers within the sales management process to support an organization's business goals.*

## Quantitative Analysis for Business

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### Quantitative Analysis For Business

Quantitative Analysis for Business explores various decision-making models, including expected value models, linear programming models, and inventory models. This course helps student learn to analyze data by using a variety of analytic tools and techniques to make better business decisions. In addition, it covers developing project schedules using the Critical Path Method. Other topics include calculating and evaluating formulas, measures of uncertainty, crash costs, and visual representation of decision-making models using electronic spreadsheets and graphs. This course has no prerequisites.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate analyzes data through numerical and graphical methods and techniques.*
- *The graduate uses expected value methods as a decision-making tool.*

- *Begin your course by discussing your course planning tool report with your instructor and creating your personalized course plan together.*
- *The graduate describes common business analytical purposes for quantitative analysis methods.*
- *The graduate uses linear programming, inventory economic ordering optimization models, and graphical representations to make informed decisions.*
- *The graduate analyzes projects using the critical path to schedule and control project costs.*

## **Business Management**

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### **Operations and Supply Chain Management**

Operations and Supply Chain Management provides a streamlined introduction to how organizations efficiently produce goods and services, determine supply chain management strategies, and measure performance. Emphasis is placed on integrative topics essential for managers in all disciplines, such as supply chain management, product development, and capacity planning. This course will guide students in analyzing processes, managing quality for both services and products, and measuring performance while creating value along the supply chain in a global environment. Topics include forecasting, product and service design, process design and location analysis, capacity planning, management of quality and quality control, inventory management, scheduling, supply chain management, and performance measurement.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate explains appropriate quality management strategies for continuous improvement in an organization.*
- *The graduate analyzes factors involved in the decision making for process design, capacity planning, and location analysis.*
- *The graduate analyzes the supply chain for competitive advantage.*
- *The graduate analyzes forecasting models, measurement techniques, and scheduling methods.*
- *The graduate explains how a business achieves organizational goals and competitive advantage through operations management and inventory management.*
- *The graduate analyzes how just-in-time, TPS, and lean systems improve operating efficiency.*

### **Business Management Tasks**

Business Management Tasks addresses important concepts needed to effectively manage a business. Topics include understanding the cost-quality relationship, using various types of graphical charts in operations management, managing innovation, and developing strategies for working with individuals and groups.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *This competency exists to assess the readiness of students.*
- *The graduate is knowledgeable about managing innovation.*
- *The graduate understands the types and uses of graphical charts in operations management.*
- *The graduate is knowledgeable about strategies for working with individuals and groups in an organization.*
- *The graduate understands the relationship between costs and quality.*

## **Capstone**

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### **Business Management Capstone Written Project**

For the Business Management Capstone Written Project students will integrate and synthesize competencies from across their degree program to demonstrate their ability to participate in and contribute value to their chosen professional field. A comprehensive business plan is developed for a company that plans to sell a product or service in a local market, national market, or on the Internet. The business plan includes a market analysis, financial statements and analysis, and specific strategic actions relevant to the chosen company.

*This course covers the following competencies:*

- *The graduate integrates and synthesizes competencies from across the degree program and thereby demonstrates the ability to participate in and contribute value to the chosen professional field.*

## Need More Information? WGU Student Services

WGU's Student Services team is dedicated exclusively to helping you achieve your academic goals. The Student Services office is available during extended hours to assist with general questions and administrative or accessibility issues. The Student Services team members help you resolve issues, listen to student issues and concerns, and make recommendations for improving policy and practice based on student feedback. The Student Services team provides a formal means by which you can express your views, which in turn will inform the decisions we make.

Student Services team members also assist with unresolved concerns to find equitable resolutions. To contact the Student Services team, please feel free to call 877-435-7948 or e-mail [studentservices@wgu.edu](mailto:studentservices@wgu.edu). We are available Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., mountain standard time. Closed Sundays.

If you have inquiries or concerns that require technical support, please contact the WGU IT Service Desk. The IT Service Desk is available Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., mountain standard time. To contact the IT Service Desk, please call 1-877-HELP-WGU (877-435-7948) or e-mail [servicedesk@wgu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@wgu.edu). The support teams are generally closed in observance of university holidays.

For the most current information regarding WGU support services, please visit "Student Support" on the Student Portal at <http://my.wgu.edu>.