



Be Smart with your Electives

As a business major, you are required to take electives, and there are several different kinds:

- Non-business/non-economics electives (catalogs 2024 and earlier)

OR

- Interdisciplinary electives (2025 catalog and later)
- Advisor Approved Electives (AAEs)
- Free electives (anything!) to reach the 120 credit MSU requirement

Electives are part of your degree requirements because we want you to be well-rounded, thoughtful global citizens. We encourage you to use these electives to feed your passions, identify new interests, explore new disciplines, take risks, tailor your degree to YOU, and make YOUR degree even more valuable. This guide is not an exhaustive list of MSU courses (not even close!), but it's designed to get you thinking about all the amazing courses available to you at MSU. Check the [FAQ for guidance on what constitutes a non-business/non-economics or interdisciplinary course](#).

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORLD

**course has pre-requisites
Check MSU online catalog for details*

AMST 101D- Introduction to American Studies
AMST 201IH- American Identity, American Dreams
ANTY 101D- Anthropology & the Human Experience
ASTR 110IN- Intro to Astronomy: Mysteries of the Sky
COA 205- Introduction to Coaching
GPHY 121D- Human Geography
GPHY 141D- Geography of World Regions
HSTA 101IH- American History I
HSTA 102IH- American History II
HSTR 101IH- Western Civilization I
HSTR 102IH- Western Civilization II

LIT 285D- Mythologies
LS 194D- Intro to Africana Studies
MUSI 101IA- Enjoyment of Music
MUSI 203IA- American Popular Music
NASX 105D- Introduction to Native American Studies
NASX 205D- Native Americans in Contemporary Society
NASX 232D- MT Indians: Cultures Histories, Current Issues
PSCI 210IS- Introduction to American Government
PSYX 100IS- Intro to Psychology
RLST 203D- Buddhist Traditions
SOC1 101IS- Introduction to Sociology

Having a strong understanding of the world and its people as well as world history and events is critical to the development of solutions to global problems in a global economy.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC RELATIONS/MEDIA

**course has pre-requisites
Check MSU online catalog for details*

ANTY 225IS- Culture, Language, & Society
COMX 111US- Introduction to Public Speaking
CRWR 240RA- Introduction to Creative Writing*
CS 145RA- Web Design

LIT 110IH- Introduction to Literature
PHL 101IH- Intro Philosophy: Reason and Reality
PHL 110IH- Intro Ethics: Good & Evil
PSCI 230D- Introduction to International Relations

Communications & Media play a fundamental role in business both externally and internally. These courses can boost your understanding of why and how we communicate with others.

HOSPITALITY/TOURISM/CULINARY

HTR 107- Intro to Hospitality Mgmt
HTR 201- Hotel Management & Operations
HTR 220- Sustainability in the Hospitality Industry*
HTR 230- Fundamentals of Tourism Management*

NUTR 221CS- Basic Human Nutrition
NUTR 226- Food Fundamentals*
NUTR 227- Food Fundamentals Lab*
SFBS 146- Intro to Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems

These are key areas of industry in Montana and students who have more of an understanding of these areas will better position themselves for career opportunities and advancement in this industry.

SCIENCE/DATA SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY/IT

BIOB 105CS- Introduction to Biotechnology
EGEN 125CS- Technology, Innovation, & Society
ERTH 101IN- Earth System Sciences
ERTH 212RN- Yellowstone: Scientific Lab
GEO 111IN- Dinosaurs
TE 250CS- Technology and Society

CSCI 107- Joy & Beauty of Computing
CSCI 127- Joy & Beauty of Data
CSCI 132- Basic Data Structures & Algorithms*
CSCI 232- Data Structures & Algorithms*
CSCI 246- Discrete Structures*

Science & technology play an increasing role in business and society. Learning more in these areas can open doors to unique career opportunities. Technology has a large impact on business operations.

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

ARCH 231CS- Issues in Sustainability
BIOB 170IN- Principles of Biological Diversity
BIOE 103CS- Environmental Science & Society
ECHM 205CS- Energy and Sustainability
SFBS 146- Intro to Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems

ENSC 110- Land Resources & Environmental Sciences
ENSC 272CS- Water Resources
NRSM 101- Natural Resource Conservation
NRSM 101- Natural Resource Conservation
NRSM 240- Natural Resource Ecology*

Students who have a deeper understanding of how an organization operates in the ecological, social and economic environment, can create huge long-term value-add for the company.

DESIGN THINKING & CREATIVITY

ARCH 121IA- Introduction to Design
FILM 101IH- Understanding Film & Media
MART 145RA- Web Design

MUST 217- Entertainment Business
PHOT 113RA- Understanding Photography
PHOT 154IA- Exploring Digital Photography

Organizations today operate in a highly competitive, global environment, making these areas crucial for success. These are highly sought after skills for those looking to be employed in business.

LAW

HSTA 102IH- American History II
PSCI 210IS- Introduction to American Government
SOCL 221IS- Criminal Justice System

WELLNESS & HEALTH

ACT 104- Beginning Bowling
ACT 120- Beginning Alpine Skiing
ACT 150- Beginning Yoga
AHMS 158- Legal & Regulatory Aspects of Healthcare
HDFS 101IS- Indiv and Fam Def: Lifespan

CHTH 205- Drugs and Society
CHTH 245- Physical Activity, Nutrition & Health in Aging
CHTH 210- Foundations in Community Health
NUTR 221CS- Basic Human Nutrition

Work and life balance is important. Be sure to take advantage of these classes that can help you improve upon your own individual physical and mental health.

OR CONSIDER ADDING A NON-BUSINESS MINOR:

Agricultural Business †
China Studies
Economics †
Financial Engineering
French & Francophone Studies
German Studies
Global Studies
Hispanic Studies
Japan Studies
Latin American & Latino Studies
Mathematics
Photography
Political Science
Psychology
Sociology
Statistics
Water Resources
Writing

For example: Agricultural Business requires ECNS 101IS, ECNS 202 & ECNS 204IS (or ECNS 251IS), ACTG 201, & STAT 216Q which are also required for a business degree. You would only need to take AGBE 321, AGBE 345 and six upper-level AGBE/ECNS elective credits.

For example:
A writing minor requires any seven courses from a list that includes Intro to Creative Writing, Intermediate Tech Writing, News & Public Relations Writing, Magazine Editing, and Professional Writing. *These skills are valuable for Communications, Blogging, Advertising, Publications, and Annual Reports.*

“ Minors do matter and could well help to shape the future path a career will take or even open some possibilities for careers one might hope for. ”

Nancy Monti, a human resources professional with Extendicare Health Services.

† Minors in Ag Bus, Econ & some Fin Eng classes **WILL NOT** count for non-bus/non-econ. Please consult with a Jobs advisor.

ADVISOR APPROVED ELECTIVE (AAE) RECOMMENDATIONS

(Management and Marketing students only)

+ *course has no pre-requisites*

* *course has pre-requisites*

CHTH 325- Leadership and Public Policies in Aging+

CHTH 405- Caregiving & Aging Families+

CHTH 430- Mental Health & Social Issues in Aging+

CHTH 435- Human Response to Stress+

COA 405- Advanced Concepts in Coaching* (COA 205)

CRWR 340- Inter. Creative Writing Workshop* (WRIT 101W & CRWR 240RA)

CRWR 437- Topics in Craft and Genre* (CRWR 240RA or CRWR 340)

ERTH 303-Weather and Climate* (ERTH 101IN)

GDSN 378-Guerrilla Advertising* (GDSN224 or instructor consent)

GPHY 325-Cultural Geography* (GPHY 121D)

GPHY 326-Geography of Energy Resources* (GPHY 121D or GPHY 141D)

GPHY 329-Environment and Society+

GPHY 402-Water and Society* (junior standing)

HSTA 320-Birth of Modern US: 1865-1945* (HSTR 101IH or HSTR 102IH)

HSTA 322-Am History: WWII to Present* (HSTA 101IH or HSTA 102IH)

HSTA 409-Food in America* (HSTA 101IH, HSTA 102IH, HSTA 160D or AMST 101D)

HSTA 470-American Environmental History* (HSTA 101IH or HSTA 102IH)

HSTR 467-History of Mountaineering* (any 100 or 200-level HSTA or HSTR course)

HTH 455-The Ethic of Care* (HDFS 101IS)

HTR 330- Event Management* (HTR 107)

HTR 335- Hospitality Facilities Mgmt* (HTR 107 & HTR 201)

LS 411-Sustainability & Human Values* (LS 103 or instructor consent)

NASX 415-Native Food Systems* (NASX 105D or NASX 232D)

NRSR 418. Hlth Policy/Hlth Care Econ Cln+

NRSM 421-Holistic Thought/Mgmt+

NRSM 430-Natural Resource Law* (WRIT 201, WRIT 221 or HONR 202IH)

NUTR 351-Nutrition and Society* (NUTR 221CS)

PHL 322-Philosophy & Environmental Ethics* (any PHL course)

PSCI 471-American Constitutional Law* (PSCI 210IS)

PSYX 335-Psychology of Gender* (PSYX 100IS)

PSYX 340-Abnormal Psychology* (PSYX 100IS)

PSYX 375- Behavior Modification* (PSYX 100IS)

PSYX 360- Social Psychology* (PSYX 100IS)

PSYX 477- Science of Psych Well-Being* (PSYX 100IS)

SFBS 429-Small Business & Entrepreneurship in Food & Health* (ECNS 101IS)

Take [CRWR 240RA](#) early for these electives & consider a writing minor.

Take [GPHY 121D](#) early for these electives.

Take [HSTA 101IH](#) early for these electives.

Take [HTR 107](#) early for these electives.

Take [PSYX 100IS](#) early for these electives & consider a psychology minor.