The departments of the College of Education offer baccalaureate programs leading to the degrees Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.Ed.). The College of Education offers a contract major leading to the B.S. degree and the Bachelor of General Studies (B.G.S.) degree. Such an individualized course of study, termed the B.S. contract major and the Bachelor of General Studies (B.G.S.) degree, utilizes existing university courses. The requirement of the contract major replaces the requirement of a regular departmental major. (See the section “University Graduation Requirements.”)

Each of the two programs offered by the College of Education addresses a different set of educational objectives. The B.S. contract major allows a student with unusual and well defined academic interests to design a major with the advice of a faculty sponsor. The B.G.S. degree, by contrast, requires no formal major; it is a minimally structured program built around a general curriculum of courses offered primarily in the College of Education. The B.G.S. degree is expected to appeal primarily to mature students with broad academic interests whose educational objectives may not include preparation for a specific professional career.

The student learning outcomes for the contract major of this degree are located at
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http://www.niu.edu/assessment/clearinghouse/outcomes/index.shtml

Admission
Students seeking approval for a contract major in the College of Education must have at least sophomore standing and must file an application with the College of Education. Information and forms can be obtained from the College of Education student services office.

Requirements for the B.S. Contract Major
A student may formulate a proposal for a major program of study appropriate to the College of Education which differs substantially from existing major programs but utilizes existing courses. The student must select a faculty sponsor from the college’s faculty and major department in which the majority of the course work is being taken. The student formulates the proposal in consultation with the faculty sponsor. The program must be logically structured around a meaningful and interesting theme or topic, for example, adult services for persons with disabilities. Students desiring to build programs of this kind using a core of courses offered by other colleges should consult with those colleges. An example of such a program would be a contract major in early childhood facilities management, which might couple work in early childhood education and business. Students desiring programs involving a substantial amount of course work in colleges other than the College of Education will be required to secure a cosponsor from the discipline housing such course work.

The student who wishes to propose a B.S. contract major must
have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.50.
↓ must include a capstone experience; and
must complete 45 semester hours after the semester in which the program is approved.

A student’s program of study must be approved by the student’s faculty sponsor, the curriculum committee of the department in which the majority of course work is being taken, the associate dean of the college, and the College of Education Curriculum Committee, and the College of Education Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

A student who completes an approved contract major and all other graduation requirements will receive the degree Bachelor of Science with a contract major in ______ (the theme specified in the contract).

The college reserves the right to deny contract majors that overextend the resources of a department.

Requirements for the B.G.S. Degree
The College of Education offers students the opportunity of constructing individualized programs of study which are different from the university’s regular major and minor programs. …

NOTE: The degree Bachelor of General Studies is not as well understood outside the university as
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traditional baccalaureate degrees. Students earning this degree may be required to convince prospective employers or graduate schools that the degree will enable them to succeed in a particular job or a future educational endeavor.