



**Concord University
Regents Bachelor of Arts
Degree Program**



Student Handbook

November 2019

**CONCORD UNIVERSITY
REGENTS BACHELOR OF ARTS (RBA) DEGREE PROGRAM
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

Program Overview

Concord University is one of the ten West Virginia public higher education institutions participating in the state-wide Regents Bachelor of Arts (RBA) degree program. Programmatic requirements and guidelines are established by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission in 1975 (formerly known as the West Virginia State Board of Regents).

The goal of the RBA is to serve adult learners with a degree program that offers flexible admission and graduation requirements and innovative methods for evaluating learning experiences. Individuals who are twenty-plus years of age or older and have earned some college credit but have been unable to complete a traditional baccalaureate degree program due to, for example, their distance from a college or university, employment schedules, and family responsibilities, may apply to this program

Frequently Asked Questions about the “value” of the RBA degree

Q. Can I go on to graduate or professional school with the RBA degree?

A. Yes, many RBA graduates go on to a variety of graduate programs both within and beyond West Virginia. They also have succeeded in medical and law school. Students planning to seek graduate or professional school admission should select courses that meet the admission requirements for those programs.

(Note: In some professional programs, there is an expectation that at least 50 percent of the student’s undergraduate coursework should be in regular, graded courses.)

Q. Do employers recognize the RBA degree?

A. The RBA degree is widely recognized by regional employers. Out-of-state employers may not be familiar with the RBA. However, RBA graduates report few difficulties once the employer understands the nature of the program.

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Program Requirements

RBA General Education Requirements		
Area	Semester Credit Hours	Subjects
Communication	6	English composition, speech, Communication
Humanities	6	Art, history, literature, music, philosophy, theater, Leadership, ethics, religion
Natural sciences and Math	6	Astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology, oceanography, physical anthropology, physical geography, physics, general math, algebra, etc.
Social sciences	6	Economics, human geography, political science, psychology, sociology, anthropology
Mathematical sciences and computer applications	3	Math, Computer, keyboarding
Additional general education	9	Any of the above.
Total	36	

This degree program offers several unique characteristics and opportunities including:

1. Adherence to regular Concord University admission standards with program restricted to the date three years after the graduation of their high school class.
2. Credit for CLEP, PEP, AP experiences are available for all students.
3. The RBA program also accepts credit for other ACE-approved testing-authenticated or credential approved training and certifications, including a wide variety of national industries and military training.
4. The RBA residency requires 24 credit hours must be earned from a West Virginia public higher education institution with at least 12 hours earned from Concord University
5. All grades of “F” that the student received four or more years prior to admission to the program are disregarded for overall GPA upon admission. The student

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understands that this adjustment is for the Regents Bachelor of Arts degree program only.

Therefore, if the student changes his/her major to another program the “F”s will be reinstated. F forgiveness is processed the semester of graduation. If F forgiveness is applied the registrar adds a notation on the student’s transcript for clarification.

- 6.. Credit for professional experience may be awarded following a faculty evaluation of a student-prepared portfolio describing the learning opportunity. Specific guidelines and expectations are established and communicated to each student contemplating this method of seeking equivalent academic credit.

Areas of Emphasis

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| 1. Appalachian Studies | 15. Journalism |
| 2. Art | 16. Leadership |
| 3. Biology | 17. Legal Studies |
| 4. General Business (specific courses must be earned) | 18. Mathematics |
| 5. Chemistry | 19. Music |
| 6. Communications | 20. Philosophy |
| 7. Computer Science | 21. Physical Education |
| 8. Criminology | 22. Political Science |
| 9. Early Childhood Development (specific courses must be earned) | 23. Psychology |
| 10. English | 24. Recreation & Tourism Management |
| 11. Geography | 25. Social Work |
| 12. Geology | 26. Sociology |
| 13. Health Education | 27. Sports Medicine |
| 14. History | 28. Theatre |
| | 29. Women’s & Gender Studies |

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Online Course Option WVROCKS

In an effort to make college more accessible to all students (in-state and out-of-state) the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), with the assistance from WVNET, development a web portal, the West Virginia Remote Online Collaborative Knowledge System (WVROCKS).

WVROCKS is designed to be a collaborative effort between all West Virginia higher education institutions who offer the RBA degree.

Students interested in taking classes must be admitted to the RBA program at an affiliated institution.

Faculty teaching classes are all West Virginia higher education faculty who have a doctoral degree in their field and who have been trained on best practices for online course development and teaching.

Courses are offered online in an eight-week compressed format with two sections during the regular 16 week semester and one section over the summer term. Students have the opportunity to begin classes twice during the regular semester.

Tuition is \$250.00 per credit hour, most classes are 3 credit hours

Access the WVROCKS academic catalog at <https://wvrocks.org/course-catalog/> for access to master syllabus and required course materials.