

## Choosing Electives

### What is an elective?

An elective is a course that you choose when multiple course options are available to satisfy a degree requirement. All business students need electives, but the numbers vary for each student. The kind of electives business majors might need are free electives, upper division electives, upper division business electives, and major electives.

### Choosing Electives: Is there a list?

Since almost anything can count as an elective to someone, it is not possible to provide a full list of options; however, some suggestions for deciding on electives are provided in the chart below. Below the chart and on page two, you will find a description of each kind of elective.

Elective Suggestions	Free Elec	UDE	UDBE	Major Elec.
<b>Participate in internships (highly recommended).</b> Meet with a career advisor to discuss this option: <a href="http://www.business.fau.edu/intern">www.business.fau.edu/intern</a> .	✓	✓	✓	Sometimes; check with your advisor
<b>Test out using testing mechanisms such as the DSST or CLEP exams.</b> Your advisor can recommend subjects that may be appropriate for you and provide links to study resources.	✓	Sometimes; check with your advisor.	Sometimes; check with your advisor	Sometimes; check with your advisor
<b>Take additional business courses that interest you.</b> The COB does maintain a list of <i>unrestricted</i> (courses non-business majors can take) business electives; depending on your program, you may want to ask an advisor for this list.	✓	✓	✓	Must choose from specified list.
<b>Pursue a minor or certificate.</b> Minors and certificates are secondary programs of study that show you directed many of your electives towards the same academic area. Your advisor can confirm whether you have enough available electives for this option. <b>Note:</b> This is not a good option unless you need a <i>significant</i> amount of electives. <i>Always</i> speak with an advisor before taking courses towards a minor.	✓	✓	✓ (As long as it's a COB minor/cert.)	Sometimes; check with your advisor
<b>Take courses of personal interest.</b> Scroll through the "Departments" field on the Searchable Schedule to narrow down courses that may be within your areas of interest. Consider topics you want to explore or skills you wish to develop.	✓	✓	✓ (Can only choose from COB depts.)	Must choose from specified list

### Free Elective Credits

**Free electives are courses not required anywhere else in your degree program that are taken to meet the minimum number of credits to graduate.** The number of free elective credits needed can be determined by adding earned credits, in progress credits, and required credits and subtracting that number from 120.

### What counts as a free elective?

Any college-level course can count as a free elective! This includes courses:

- Inside or outside the College of Business
- Upper or lower division level

When choosing electives, be sure that:

- You have not already taken the course.
- The course is not already required somewhere else in your program.
- You meet the pre-requisites for the course.

- The course does not have any other restriction that would prevent you from taking it. (For example, if a course was restricted to students in a special program or certain major, you would not be able to take that course.)

**Tip:** The College of Education offers wellness courses under the department of Exercise Science and Health Promotion. Courses taken frequently as free electives are below. Please be mindful of credits and prerequisite requirements for each course.

- |            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| ○ Walking  | ○ Aerobics          |
| ○ Jogging  | ○ First Aid         |
| ○ Swimming | ○ Substance Abuse   |
| ○ Yoga     | ○ Stress Management |

### Upper Division Elective (UDE) Credits

**Upper division electives are any 3000 or 4000 level course not required anywhere else in your degree program that are taken to meet the minimum 45 upper division credits required to graduate.** In the College of Business, UDEs are **only required for General Economics majors and BGS students.**

#### What counts as an upper division elective?

Any 3000 or 4000 level courses. This includes courses:

- Inside or outside the College of Business
- Whose course numbers start with a “3” or a “4”
  - Example: HFT1000 can be used as a free elective, but it cannot be used as an upper division business elective because the course number starts with a “1”. SPB3003 can be an upper division elective because the course number starts with a “3”.

When choosing UDEs, be sure that:

- You have not already taken the course.
- The course is not already required somewhere else in your program.
- You meet the pre-requisites for the course.
- The course does not have any other restriction that would prevent you from taking it. (For example, if a course was restricted to students in a special program or certain major, you would not be able to take that course.)

### Upper Division Business Electives (UDBE)

**Upper division business electives are any 3000 or 4000 level course offered by the College of Business not required anywhere else in your degree program and required for some business majors to graduate.** Your advisor can tell you whether UDBEs are required for your program.

#### What counts as an upper division business elective?

When choosing UDBEs, be sure that:

- You have not already taken the course.
- The course is not already required somewhere else in your program.
- You meet the pre-requisites for the course.
- The course does not have any other restriction that would prevent you from taking it. (For example, if a course was restricted to students in a certain major, you would not be able to take that course.)
- The course has one of the following prefixes:
 

○ ACG	○ ECP	○ FIN	○ ISM	○ REE
○ BUL	○ ECS	○ HFT	○ MAN	○ RMI
○ ECO	○ ENT	○ HSA	○ MAR	○ SPB

### Major Electives

Major electives refer to a student’s option to choose any course that starts with a certain prefix or is offered under a certain department. These 3000 or 4000 level courses are in addition to those already required for the major. Unlike other types of electives, **major electives must be passed with a “C” or better.** Your degree audit and/or your major program sheet will have a list of courses that can satisfy major elective requirements. Offerings from departments can sometimes change, so consult with your advisor if you have any questions.