

Electives Guide for FAU College of Business Students

What is an elective?

An elective is a required course that you get to choose. Your advisor will help you understand which kinds of electives you need for your program. When choosing electives, make sure you **do not choose a course you have already taken.**

Types of Electives

This guide explains the difference between:

- Major electives
- Free electives
- Upper division electives (UDE)
- Upper division business electives (UDBE)

Important: Before registering for **any** kind of elective: Make sure that you **meet the requirements** of the course (pre-reqs, restrictions, etc.) and that you have **never taken the course** (or an equivalent) before.

Major Electives

Major electives are courses that must be chosen from a list related to your major. Your degree audit will state whether you need major electives for your program, and the program sheet will list the options. Your advisor will also confirm if you need these courses.

Free Electives

What is a free elective?

Free electives are courses you choose to meet the minimum 120 credits for any FAU degree.

Who needs free electives?

Most students; an advisor can confirm how many you need.

What counts as a free elective?

Any* **1000—4000** level course may count as a free elective.

Does a free elective have to be a business course?

No; it can come from any department.

Can I choose a business course as a free elective?

Yes; options vary based on your program.

Is there a list of free electives I can choose from?

See next page.

Upper Division Electives (UDE)

What is an upper division elective?

Upper division electives are courses you choose to meet the minimum 42 upper division credits for any FAU degree.

Who needs upper division electives?

General ECON majors, DSAL majors, and BGS students.

What counts as an upper division elective?

Any* **3000 or 4000** level course may count as a UDE.

Does a UDE have to be a business course?

No; it can come from any department.

Can I choose a business course as a UDE?

Yes, from the [unrestricted bus course list](#). Business courses do NOT count as “upper division non-business electives” for GNBU students.

Is there a list of UDEs I can choose from?

See next page.

Upper Division Business Electives (UDBE)

What is a UDBE?

UDBEs are any 3000 and 4000 level business courses you choose to meet certain business credit requirements.

Who needs UDBEs?

UDBEs are required for GNBU students, some specialized business core majors, and Health Administration majors. Speak with your advisor to confirm if you need UDBEs. Business minors or certificates can sometimes be used to replace UDBEs.

What counts as a UDBE?

Any* 3000/4000 level course that starts with one of the following prefixes can be a UDBE. On the searchable schedule, enter one of the prefixes below without any course number to see all courses offered in that department. Select a 3000/4000 level course that you have not taken before.

- ACG: Accounting
- BUL: Bus. Law
- ECO/ECP/ECS: Economics
- ENT: Entrepreneurship
- FIN: Finance
- GEB: General Bus.
- HFT: Hospitality
- HSA: Health Admin
- ISM: Mgmt Info Systems
- MAN: Management
- MAR: Marketing
- QMB: Quantitative Bus.
- REE: Real Estate
- RMI: Risk Mgmt
- SPB: Sports Admin

What are the most common UDBEs that students take?

Course Title	Prefix & Number	Pre-requisites (Minimum Grade “C”)
Management & More Internship	MAN4940	Declared in major; 60 credits; MAN3025 and three additional upper division business courses; 2.5 overall GPA. https://business.fau.edu/careers
Intro. to Hospitality Mgmt.	HFT3003	30 credits
Intro to Sport Administration	SPB3003	

*Make sure that you **meet the requirements** of the course (pre-reqs, restrictions, etc.) and that you have **never taken the course** (or an equivalent) before.

Free Elective and Upper Division Elective Examples

Free electives and UDEs can be chosen from the example options below, or you can [see the following page for instructions on finding your own electives](#). Be sure to **choose something that interests you** and that you have **NOT** already taken.

Course Title	Prefix & Number	UDE or free elec?	Credits	FAU Department
Internship: highly recommended. Visit https://business.fau.edu/careers to learn more. Check with an academic advisor to see if you have electives in your program that can be replaced with an internship. Quick questions about internships can be emailed to businessintern@fau.edu . To begin the process, schedule an internship advising appointment .				
American Literature to 1865	AML2020	Free elec only	3	English
Introduction to Communication and Civic Life	COM2053	Free elec only	3	Communication & Multimedia Studies
Intro to the Teaching Profession	EDF2005	Free elec only	3	Education
Fundamentals of Engineering	EGN1002	Free elec only	3	Engineering
Intro to Technology for Teachers	EME2040	Free elec only	3	Education
Digital Literacy in the Globally Connected World	EME2620	Free elec only	3	Education
Introduction to Business	GEB2011	Free elec only	3	Business Management
Intro to the Tourism & Hospitality Industry	HFT1000	Free elec only	3	Business Hospitality
Health and Fitness for Life	HSC2100	Free elec only	2	Exercise Science & Health Promotion
First Aid and CPR	HSC2400	Free elec only	2	Exercise Science & Health Promotion
Introduction to Leadership	LDR2010	Free elec only	1	Ed. Leadership & Research Methods
Introduction to Multimedia Studies	MMC1540	Free elec only	3	Communication & Multimedia Studies
Pilates Exercise	PEM1127	Free elec only	2	Exercise Science & Health Promotion
Weight Training	PEM1130	Free elec only	2	Exercise Science & Health Promotion
Jogging	PEM1145	Free elec only	2	Exercise Science & Health Promotion
Yoga	PEM2121	Free elec only	1	Exercise Science & Health Promotion
Swimming	PEN2121	Free elec only	1	Exercise Science & Health Promotion
Swim Fitness	PEN2172	Free elec only	1	Exercise Science & Health Promotion
Interpersonal Communication	SPC2300	Free elec only	3	Communication & Multimedia Studies
Acting 1	TPP2110	Free elec only	3	Theatre & Dance
Introduction to Women's Studies	WST2010	Free elec only	3	Women, Gender, & Sexuality
Introduction to Sexuality & Gender Studies	WST2608	Free elec only	3	Women, Gender, & Sexuality
African-American History to 1877	AMH3571	UDE or free elec	3	History
Introduction to Programming for Non-Majors	CAI4002	UDE or free elec	3	Computer Science & Engineering
Foundations of AI for Non-Majors	COP4084	UDE or free elec	3	Computer Science & Engineering
Creative Writing	CRW3010	UDE or free elec	3	English
Comparative Politics	CPO3003	UDE or free elec	3	Political Science
Stress Management	HSC4104	UDE or free elec	3	Exercise Science & Health Promotion
Weight Management	HSC4139	UDE or free elec	3	Exercise Science & Health Promotion
Substance Abuse	HSC4143	UDE or free elec	3	Exercise Science & Health Promotion
Classical Jewish Civilization	JST3403	UDE or free elec	3	History
Rock and Roll in American Society	MUH3023	UDE or free elec	3	Music
Law & American Society	POS3691	UDE or free elec	3	Political Science
Race and Ethnic Relations	SYD3700	UDE or free elec	3	Sociology
Family & Society	SYO3100	UDE or free elec	3	Sociology
Human Sexuality & Social Change	SYP3060	UDE or free elec	3	Sociology

Upper division business courses can also be used as **free electives** or **upper division electives**:

Pre-Business, BGS, HEAD, ECON (General), and DSAL students may use unrestricted business courses* to satisfy free electives, UDEs, or UDBEs where needed for their program. Visit www.business.fau.edu/advising → FAU Resource Index → [Unrestricted Upper Division Business Courses](#).

Declared majors in **ACCT, ECON-EBUS, FIN, MIS, HTMG, INBU, MGMT, and MKTG** may satisfy free electives or UDBEs where needed for their program with any* upper division business course they have not already taken.

GNBU majors may satisfy free electives or UDBEs where needed for their program with any* upper division business course they have not already taken. **Business courses cannot** be used for "upper division **non-business** electives."

Any* course 1000 through 4000 could potentially be a free elective; any course 3000 – 4000 could potentially be an upper division elective. See the following page for steps to search for other electives that may interest you.

*Make sure that you **meet the requirements** of the course (pre-reqs, restrictions, etc.) and that you have **never taken the course** or an equivalent before.

How to Search for Your Own Free Electives, UDEs, and UDBEs

You can find electives that interest you by using the “department” or “subject” fields in the Searchable Schedule without typing in an exact course number.

1. On the searchable schedule, click the “level” field and choose “undergraduate.”
2. **Free electives and UDEs:** Click the “departments” field and scroll until you see a department that interests you.
UDBEs: Click the “subject” field and type in the three-letter business subject in which you’re interested (MAN, HFT, etc.)
3. **Free elective:** continue to step 4.
UDE or UDBE: Scroll down and click on “Advanced Search.” In the “Course Number Range,” type 3000 to 4999.
4. Click search.
5. Review the courses being offered in that department until you see a title that interests you.
6. Click the title of the course to open the course info.
7. Review the course description.
8. Review the restrictions, the pre-requisites, and the co-requisites to make sure there is nothing that would restrict you from taking the course.
9. **Make sure you have not ever taken that course or an equivalent** before by looking at your degree audit.
10. If you’re happy with that course, add it to your schedule. If not, continue searching.

Using Electives for a Minor or a Certificate

If you have several elective credits available for your program, talk to your advisor about whether a minor or certificate would be a good way to satisfy some or all of these credits. Students should only consider a minor or certificate if they have enough elective credits available to complete it without extending graduation.

List of all business minors and certificates: <https://business.fau.edu/minors>

If you are interested in a non-business minor or certificate, you must speak with an advisor in the FAU college that offers the program to find out what is required. The list of all minors and certificates can be found in the University Catalog at www.fau.edu/catalog. Click General Information → Degree Programs → [Undergraduate Minors](#) or [Undergraduate Certificates](#).

Testing Out of Credits

If you are a strong test taker, you may be interested in taking an exam that awards credits towards your degree without having to take a full class. Talk to your advisor before taking any DSST or CLEP exams.

DSST Info: Visit www.business.fau.edu/advising. Click FAU Resource Index → [DSST Credit by Exam Program](#).

CLEP Info: Visit www.business.fau.edu/advising. Click FAU Resource Index → [College Level Examination Program \(CLEP\)](#).

*Make sure that you **meet the requirements** of the course (pre-reqs, restrictions, etc.) and that you have **never taken the course** or an equivalent before.