



BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TRANSFER TALK

TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION NEWS

Transfer Planning: B.A. or B.S. Degree?

By Edwin Roman, Academic and Transfer Resources Coordinator

Students researching senior college degree programs may find that some majors offer both B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) and B.S. (Bachelor of Science) degrees. If you were to research accounting, chemistry, or psychology majors at CUNY senior colleges, you will find offerings in both degrees and sometimes at the same college.

Both the B.A. and B.S. degrees have a balance of the following components:

- A major providing preparation in an academic or professional field.
- General education providing fundamental university-level education in communication, science, mathematics, social sciences, and the arts and humanities.
- Electives and/or a minor chosen to fit the student's preferences or needs.

There are differences.

A Bachelor of Arts degree is a humanities based degree designed to provide a balanced liberal arts education and general knowledge in a recognized discipline or interdisciplinary field.

A Bachelor of Science degree is science based and also provides a balanced liberal arts education as well as a scientific, technical, or professional entry-level competence.

The best way to choose between a B.A. and B.S. is to look forward: explore professional and/or graduate school requirements for what is required or preferred. One example is Lehman College, which offers a B.A. and B.S. in Accounting. According to the Lehman College catalog, students who complete the B.A. in Accounting qualify for positions in private and public accounting, but the degree does not satisfy the educational requirements for a New York Certified Public Accountant (C.P.A.) To become a C.P.A. in New York State, a student would have to pursue the B.S. in Accounting. Please note that BCC has an articulation agreement with this Lehman program.

Other Baccalaureate Degrees

Detailed below are other baccalaureate degrees you may come across in your transfer planning research. The advice offered above also applies for the following degrees. Connect with your respective academic department if you still have questions.

- B. Arch. (Bachelor of Architecture): The National Architectural Accrediting Board, which allows students to qualify for the Architect Registration Examination, accredits B. Arch. Degrees. City College offers a B. Arch. Degree.
- B.B.A. (Bachelor of Business Administration): B.B.A. Degree programs provide students a core curriculum designed to expose them to general business topics, while taking advanced courses in a specific academic area such as finance, international business or marketing. Baruch College offers various B.B.A. Degrees such as Marketing Management.
- B.F.A. (Bachelor of Fine Arts): The B.F.A. includes a component of liberal arts courses, but the majority of the major coursework consists of studio work and education in visual and performing arts. Many of these degree programs require a portfolio or audition for admission. Lehman College offers a B.F.A. in Art.
- B. Tech (Bachelor of Technology): The B. Tech is skill oriented and a degree is awarded following the completion of a curriculum that emphasizes practice, as opposed to theory. SUNY Morrisville offers a B. Tech in Automotive Technology.

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Quote of the Season:

"The Taliban could take our pens and books, but they couldn't stop our minds from thinking."

- Malala Yousafzai,
Activist for rights to
education and for women

