

# New degree approved for College of Arts & Sciences

By **Maysoon Abdelrasul**  
The Jambar

**Y**oungstown State University is expanding possibilities for students who do not have a particular major in mind.

On April 21 the Ohio Board of Regents approved a new bachelor of general studies program in the College of Arts and Sciences at YSU. It will go into effect this summer.

Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Jane Kestner said it will serve students in different areas, and is intended for non-traditional students who want to come back for a degree or those who started out in a particular major but do not meet the requirements for that major.

Other target audiences include those who think a college degree would advance their current career or aid in their changing career. It also includes older students who want the personal satisfaction of having earned a college degree.

"The degree is important because it allows students with a new avenue and a new option to complete their bachelor's degree," she said.

The degree has been in the works for about two years, and Kestner said it is very common at other universities.

Just like any other degree at YSU, it requires 124 credit hours to complete. The difference is there is no major or minor. The requirement is a minimum of 18 semester hours in each of any two disciplines. The completion of 24 semester hours of upper division coursework in the concentration area and a completion of a cultural requirement are needed to graduate.

Kestner said any student in the program must take all university general education and graduation requirements.

As of Wednesday, Kestner said she had received 25 calls from interested individuals. She said she believes the program will attract new students and will be a great addition to YSU's College of Arts and Sciences. She said she expects 20 to 40 students in the program by the end of next year.

"I think that is an excellent start for this program," she said.

Call *Maysoon Abdelrasul*  
at (330) 941-1913