

To Our Graduates:

As undergraduate students in the Bachelor of Science (BS) in General Studies at Drexel University, you have demonstrated a remarkable grasp of what you wanted to accomplish. You understood how the flexibility of the General Studies degree afforded you the opportunity to devise a highly specialized academic plan which incorporated and expounded upon your academic interests and in many cases, your prior academic credit. You have been determined and proactive; displaying the ability and self-motivation which enabled you to succeed as a student. These characteristics will serve you well in the next phase of your academic and professional careers.

As academic advisors for Goodwin Degree Completion Programs Josh Ford, Paul Cortopassi and I endeavor to help students visualize their goals, learn how to utilize university resources, and take ownership of their path to degree. You, with initial direction from academic advising, employed initiative and resilience to complete a BS in General Studies degree despite the many challenges adults face that often present barriers to degree completion.

Most adult students are wives and mothers, husbands and fathers, military veterans, employed full-time with limited time in their daily routine for anything that does not involve work or family. Many of you enrolled in part-time and online programs, opting for the convenience of programs which have become very appealing to adult students. Well, whether full- or part-time, online or on-campus you all are to be commended for completing the same rigorous requirements that attest to your ability to complete a complex task (degree completion) that not everyone is able to accomplish.

A General Studies degree serves as good preparation for the professional workplace. Employers looking to fill positions for which an innovative mind, sound reasoning and communication skills are valued—and will be amenable to hiring or promoting graduates who chose a General Studies degree for its academic diversity. Having a range of interests and a desire to explore interdisciplinary courses and emerging areas of expertise taught by world-renowned Drexel faculty has helped students pursue multiple career options, while the opportunity to follow a practical, industry inspired approach to learning from Goodwin adjunct faculty who are among the more accomplished professionals in their chosen fields has enabled many of you to apply what you've learned in your current work environments.

I firmly believe you are primed to make a difference! You will be the hands and minds that steer your communities, your businesses, your colleagues and our world to a brighter tomorrow. Please share your successes with us! Let us know how you are doing and keep your proud alma mater in mind as we endeavor to provide you with another class of change-makers to assist you with the challenges ahead.

Celebrate, take a breath, and set yourselves to the next phase...you're ready!

Lamont R. Wilson

Senior Director, Degree Completion Programs

Drexel University

Goodwin College of Professional Studies

wilsonlr@drexel.edu