

Procedure

Majors Policy

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Reference:	BOR Policy 303.1, UM Catalog- Major and Minor Requirements
Approved by:	Faculty Senate

A. Majors and Extended Majors

Majors and extended majors are defined in [Board of Regents' Policy 303.1](#) (Revised May 28, 2010)

1. Major - The specific field of concentration for the degree. A designated and coherent sequence of courses in a discipline, related disciplines, or professional area in which a student concentrates as a part of a baccalaureate degree program. The requirements of the major are usually defined by one academic department, but may be defined jointly by two or more departments in the case of an interdisciplinary major. Majors may range from 30 to 48 semester hours, half of which must be at the upper division level. Study in the major will conclude with a capstone, integrating experience in which the knowledge and skills learned in the major are applied or demonstrated.

2. Extended Major - Where required by professional expectations or specialized accreditation standards, extended majors may be offered in undergraduate programs. The extended major may require up to 80 hours.

B. Limits on Requirements in the Major

When a new major or a new option in an existing major is proposed, or when a department proposes to add requirements to an existing major or option, ASCRC may consider if the number of credits required for the major falls within the guidelines of BOR Policy 303.1. When determining the number of credits:

- Courses required for the major and offered by the major department(s) nearly always count towards the number of credits required by the major, unless a suitable justification is provided to ASCRC.
- Courses required for the major but offered by other departments usually do not count towards the number of credits required by the major. One exception (probably hypothetical) would be a required course offered by another department but cross-listed in the major department. Other exceptions may be courses from closely allied fields or courses that seem to be central to the major.
- Hidden prerequisites: If a course counts towards the number of credits required by the major, so usually do any of its prerequisites that are offered by the major department(s), unless entering freshmen intending to pursue the major can be reasonably expected to already have satisfied these prerequisites.

If ASCRC determines that the number of credits required for a major or option exceeds the BOR limit of 48 credits, ASCRC can require additional justification from the proposing department before approving or denying the request. The additional justification could include arguments why hidden prerequisites or specific courses required for the major should not count towards the allowable maximum of credits for the major; or why the allowable maximum should be raised because of professional expectations on graduates or because of specialized accreditation standards.

C. Further Information

Other rules about majors are contained in the UM Catalog. See in particular the section "[Major Requirements](#)".