Policy on Changing a Major or Declaring a Dual Major or a Minor

(Senate: 2/17/81, 3/11/83[EA], 11/22/94, 6/5/12, 5/20/14, 10/29/14 [EA], 5/9/17; President: 4/20/81, 3/3/95, 8/3/06, 11/28/12, 6/26/14, 12/2/14, 5/30/17)

For information on declaring a major, please see the policy on the Timing of Undergraduate Advising.

Change of Major and Dual Major

Students may change their major or declare a second major provided that they can complete the new major or second major in no more than 120% (144 units for a standard 120-unit program) of the units required for the student’s current baccalaureate degree counting only degree eligible units. Students should be made aware that a change of major or the addition of a second major will require adjustments be made to their degree plan and may delay graduation.

Multiple Majors and/or Degrees

Students may earn more than one baccalaureate degree, (e.g., two B.A. degrees, or both a B.A. and a B.S. degree). The degrees will be posted when requirements for both degrees are met. Students may also earn a baccalaureate degree and a graduate degree, (e.g., B.S. and M.S. degrees) through select integrated degree programs. In such programs, degrees are awarded when the requirements for both the bachelor’s and Master’s degrees are met. Both degrees are awarded at the same time.

Minors

Although not required for a baccalaureate, minors are available in many fields that will help strengthen students’ preparation in areas related to their major field or to career choices. A minor may not be taken in the same subject as the major. A minor consists of a formal aggregate of courses totaling 12 or more semester units. At least 9 semester units must be upper division and taken in residence at Cal State L.A. A MINIMUM OF 12 UNITS MUST BE DISTINCT FROM THE CORE REQUIREMENTS IN THE STUDENT’S MAJOR BUT MAY OVERLAP WITH THE ELECTIVES IN THE MAJOR. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 is required in the minor program. Students must get approval from an advisor in the minor department in order to declare a minor. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS ADVISOR VERIFY THAT THE COURSES USED TO SATISFY THE MINOR ARE ALIGNED WITH THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE. The minor field will be noted on the student’s transcript and on the student’s diploma if the
individual program has been approved by the offering department/division/school and is completed at the same time as or prior to the work for the degree itself.

Maximum Number of Majors and Minors

It is expected that students will complete study toward their baccalaureate degree in no more than 120% (144 units for a standard 120-unit program) of the units required by their primary degree program, including a second major or any minors. Undergraduates may declare up to (a) two majors without a minor (b) one major and two minors.

With the approval of the proposed department(s), students wishing to exceed the unit limit that would result from changing majors, adding a second major, or exceeding the maximum number of majors and minors may petition the Dean of Undergraduate Studies for approval.
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Minors

Although not required for a baccalaureate, minors are available in many fields that will help strengthen students’ preparation in areas related to their major field or to career choices. A minor consists of a formal aggregate of courses totaling 12 or more semester units. At least 9 semester units must be upper division and taken in residence at Cal State L.A. A minimum of 12 units must be distinct from the core requirements in the student's major but may overlap with the electives in the major. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 is required in the minor program. Students must get approval from an advisor in the minor department in order to declare a minor. It is essential that this advisor verify that the courses used to satisfy the minor are aligned with the criteria stated above. The minor field will be noted on the student's transcript and on the student's diploma if the individual program has been approved by the
offering department/division/school and is completed at the same time as or prior to the work for the degree itself.

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