

Proposal: Elimination of the additional thirty-two credit hour requirement for UNI students seeking a concurrent undergraduate double degree (two different degrees, such as a B.S. and a B.A. or a B.A. and a B.Music).

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Summary:

Currently, students pursuing a double degree (two different degrees, BA and BS for example) must earn thirty-two credit hours beyond the hours required for the primary degree. This does not apply to double majors (for example, BA in Biology and BA in Chemistry). We propose the elimination of the additional hour requirement for students pursuing the double degree concurrently but retaining the requirement for students who have completed one degree and then seek a second degree.

Background and rationale:

The 2014-2016 UNI Academic Catalog's Undergraduate Information and Degree Requirements section, Requirements for Graduation subsection items I and J, identifies two distinct combinations of subject concentrations:

(1) A double major. Two concentrations, both leading to the same degree: "The university does not grant two of the *same* degrees concurrently, including the Bachelor of Arts degree – Liberal Arts and the Bachelor of Arts degree – Teaching program. A student may have a **double major** [emphasis added], one in Teaching and one in the Liberal Arts, but the Teaching major must be declared as the first major and the B.A. Teaching degree will be the degree conferred, since the teaching degree has the higher grade index requirement." While it is not specified, a double major may also be earned by completing the requirements for the same degree in two non-teaching fields, for example a B.A. in Accounting and a B.A. in Mathematics, or a B.S. in Geology and a B.S. in Physics.

(2) A double degree. Two concentrations but leading to two different degrees, such as a B.S. in Chemistry and a B.A. in Biology: Biomedical Emphasis: "A student may pursue two different baccalaureate degrees concurrently. To receive two different degrees concurrently, (i.e., B.A./B.S., B.A./B.Music), a student must meet all the requirements for both degrees, including at least 36 weeks in residence and earning not less than 32 hours of credit beyond the hours required for the degree the student chooses to declare as the first degree. For example: The Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree requires minimum of 120 hours and the Bachelor of Science requires minimum 126 hours to graduate. If declared first degree Bachelor of Liberal Arts/second degree Bachelor of Science, requires minimum 152 hours to graduate with these concurrent degrees (120 hours + 32 hours). If declared first degree Bachelor of Science/second degree Bachelor of Liberal Arts, requires minimum 158 hours to graduate with these concurrent degrees (126 hours + 32 hours)."

The requirement for 32 additional hours has important repercussions. For students, it is a significant barrier to the declaration of double-degree curricula. Many students working toward double concentrations, with intentions of earning double degrees, consider changing their programs of study upon learning of the extra hour requirement. While the evidence is anecdotal

rather than systematic, the majority of these students shift from B.S./B.A. double degrees to B.A./B.A. double majors. For departments, the change away from a double degree shrinks the numbers of students graduating with B.S. majors, putting those programs at risk in the current climate that views as expendable those majors that graduate only small numbers of students. It also weakens enrollments in classes required for B.S. majors, forcing adjustments in the rotations on which those courses are offered and therefore limiting course availability and flexibility for students. 2

The rationale for the 32 additional hour requirement is not specified in the catalog, nor is it readily available in curricular documents dating back at least thirty years. It is likely an echo of the same requirement imposed on students seeking a second baccalaureate degree at UNI after having earned a first degree at UNI or elsewhere: “A student may pursue a second baccalaureate degree after a first baccalaureate degree has been conferred. To receive a second baccalaureate degree after first baccalaureate degree has been conferred, a student must meet all the requirements for the second degree, including at least 36 weeks in residence and earning not less than 32 hours of credit. For example: Student has 20 specified hours of coursework to meet the requirements for the second baccalaureate degree. Student will need to earn an additional 12 hours to meet the minimum 32 hours of credit required for a second baccalaureate degree.” These conditions appear to ensure that students cannot earn a second degree without spending at least two semesters in residence at UNI – a reasonable requirement for a student with a degree from another university or college, but an extra burden for UNI graduates and currently-enrolled UNI students.

Under current practice, it is easier for a student to complete a B.S. double major (126 hours required) than to complete a B.S./B.A. double degree (158 hours if the B.S. degree is the first major). Given that a B.S. major is always more rigorous than a B.A. major in the same discipline, this difference in required hours is reversed from what might be expected.

Moreover, the additional 32 hours needed for a second degree may be earned almost entirely outside of the requirements for that second degree. For example, a UNI student working toward a B.S. in Biochemistry would have to earn 126 hours – 74 in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics; 35 in the Liberal Arts Core (beyond the 10 hours already satisfied by courses required for the major); and 17 elective hours. That same student could then complete the requirements for a B.A. in Biology:Biomedical Emphasis with 15 additional hours in Biology – all of which could have been counted toward the 17 elective hours for the B.S. in Biochemistry. All of the 32 additional hours would therefore be earned outside of the requirements for either of the two degrees.

UNI’s current practice resembles that at Iowa State University (Appendix A). Their academic catalog notes that “a student may receive two bachelor’s degrees if he or she meets the requirements of each curriculum and earns at least 30 credits beyond the requirements of the curriculum requiring the greater number of credits.” However, the University of Iowa has no parallel requirement (Appendix A), as outlined in their academic catalog: “You may earn more than one baccalaureate degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For example, you may earn a BS in biology and BA in English, or a BA in mathematics and a BM in Music. The degrees may be earned concurrently or successively...In order to earn additional baccalaureate degrees from CLAS, you must fulfill all requirements for each degree, including those for all majors and for the General Education Program. You must also fulfill the CLAS and UI residence requirements.”

Among UNI's ten peer institutions, as identified by the Iowa Board of Regents, five have an additional hour requirement similar to UNI's current 32-hour requirement. One requires 12 additional hours, two have no additional hour requirement, and two do not allow students to earn double degrees. 3

We support the retention of the 32 additional hour requirement for students whose first baccalaureate degree is already complete, but we believe that elimination of that requirement for UNI students seeking a concurrent double degree would encourage interested students to pursue two concentrations without the burden of an extra year's work. Students would enjoy greater flexibility in planning their programs of study, and concerns about adding an extra year (with its attendant costs) would be relieved.

Iowa State University: A student may receive two bachelor's degrees if he or she meets the requirements of each curriculum and earns at least 30 credits beyond the requirements of the curriculum requiring the greater number of credits. Each degree program must be approved by the appropriate department chair or head.

A student fulfilling the requirements of two separate curricula in different colleges may, in certain cases, receive a degree from one of the colleges with double majors crossing college lines. The permission of both deans must be obtained and each degree program must be approved by the appropriate department and dean.

U of Iowa: Multiple degrees from CLAS

You may earn more than one baccalaureate degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For example, you may earn a BS in biology and a BA in English, or a BA in mathematics and a BM in music. The degrees may be earned concurrently or successively. However, you can never be awarded two different baccalaureate degrees with the same major (e.g., you may not earn both a BA and a BS in Psychology).

In order to earn additional baccalaureate degrees from CLAS, you must fulfill all requirements for each degree, including those for all majors and for the General Education Program. You must also fulfill the CLAS and UI residence requirements.

Multiple degrees from CLAS and another UI college

You may earn a University of Iowa baccalaureate degree from another UI college at the same time you are earning your CLAS degree, with the exception of a BAS and BLS degree from University College. For example, you may earn a BS from CLAS while also earning a BBA from the Tippie College of Business.

In order to earn concurrent baccalaureate degrees from different colleges, you must:

- be admitted to those colleges
- satisfy all requirements for the additional degrees, including the requirements for the majors and for the appropriate General Education Programs of both colleges
- satisfy the residence requirements of The University of Iowa and of both colleges

Additional information is available in the cooperating colleges' student services offices. Students seeking additional degrees from different UI undergraduate colleges are urged to review all requirements with their advisors as soon as possible.

Returning to CLAS for successive baccalaureate degrees

If you have been awarded one or more baccalaureate degrees from the University of Iowa, 5
you may return for one or more additional baccalaureate degrees, as long as the degree is
different from the one you previously earned (e.g., if you received a BA, you may return and
earn a BS, BM, or BFA). **You may not earn a second BA degree; instead, you may return
and complete a second major.** For more information on earning a second major, please
see Returning to earn additional majors.

Likewise, a student with a baccalaureate degree from another UI college may return and earn an
additional baccalaureate degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as long as the
degrees are not identical. For example, if a student has already earned a BBA, a BSN or a BSE,
he or she may return to earn a BA, BS, or a BFA from CLAS.

- **You may not earn two different baccalaureate degrees with the same major**, such as a
BA in Psychology and BS in Psychology. Instead, you must choose another major for the
additional baccalaureate degree.
- **You may not be enrolled in a graduate or professional program while earning a
baccalaureate degree.** Concurrent enrollment is not allowed.

In order to earn the additional baccalaureate degree, you must meet all requirements for that
degree, including the General Education and the CLAS and UI residence requirements. Any
student interested in returning to earn an additional baccalaureate degree from CLAS must apply
for admission to The University of Iowa and to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Appendix B: Double Degree Requirements at UNI Peer Institutions

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College of Charleston: 31 additional hours

Eastern Illinois University: 30 additional hours

Ferris State University: no double degrees

James Madison University: 30 additional hours (but cannot be used if first degree is from a different university)

Marshall University: 30 additional hours for non-concurrent double degree; no mention of concurrent double degree

Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville: 30 additional hours

Truman State University: 12 additional hours

University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth: no additional hours

University of Minnesota – Duluth: no additional hours

Western Washington University: no double degrees