

Undergraduate Degree and Graduation Information

Undergraduate Majors and Minors

Majors and minors are an integral part of the baccalaureate degree curricula. Specific curriculum requirements in place for each academic year may be acquired from the NDSU Catalog (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/>). Minimum credit for degree programs, including majors, minors, and certificates are guided by Policy and Procedure 409 (<https://ndus.edu/sbhe-overview/sbhe-policies/>) from the North Dakota University System (NDUS) State Board of Higher Education (SBHE). Students are responsible for following the requirements in place at the time a major or minor is officially declared with the university. Program declaration is outlined in Degree and Graduation requirements (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/degree-and-graduation/>) in the overview section.

Major: An undergraduate major is a planned grouping of courses in an academic discipline to which a student formally commits to studying by declaring the major. Majors must total a minimum of 32 semester credits. Resident credit for a major is defined in the Degree and Graduation Requirements section. Majors are earned under a specific degree type; some majors are earned as either a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts Degree, while other majors are specialized and earned under a specialized degree type. The types of degrees offered by NDSU are listed separately in the Bulletin under Degree Types and Diploma Information (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/degree-and-graduation/>).

Minor: A minor is a similar grouping of courses in an academic discipline that students may declare to enhance their undergraduate studies. Minor must total a minimum of 16 credits. A minimum of eight credits in the minor must be earned in residence at NDSU.

Second or Multiple Majors: Students may pursue a second or multiple majors under the **same** baccalaureate degree. All requirements for each major must be completed and at least 15 unique credits must exist between majors. Additional majors may be completed and recorded on the student's academic record after the degree for the first major has been awarded. These subsequent majors/minors will appear as a milestone statement on the academic record following the term for which the requirements were completed. **Important Note:** When majors with different degree types are declared, the requirements for a second degree apply - see the next section Second Degree).

Accelerated/Combined Degree Programs: See Degree Types and Diploma Information (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/degree-and-graduation/#acceleratedcombineddegreeprogramsugrtdtogradtext>)

Second Degree

A second baccalaureate degree type may be earned at NDSU with all of the following provisions:

1. All curriculum requirements must be satisfactorily completed.
2. Each baccalaureate degree must be different (ex. B.S. & B.A. or B.S. & B.S.E.E.). However, students may complete requirements for more than one major within a given degree, if available (see second or multiple majors).

Certificates

A certificate program is a specialized course of study requiring at least 9 credit hours at the undergraduate level or eight credit hours at the graduate level, per the NDUS SBHE Policy & Procedure 409 (<https://ndus.edu/sbhe-overview/sbhe-policies/>). Certificates may be earned while in pursuit of a degree or as standalone programs of study. Prospective students interested in certificate programs, but not seeking a degree, must be accepted to the university. Contact the Office of Admission (<https://www.ndsu.edu/admission/>) or the Graduate School (<https://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/>) for further information. Curricular requirements and verification forms are available in academic departments offering certificates. Completed forms must be signed by the appropriate department chair (and Graduate College, if applicable) and submitted to Registration and Records in order for the certificate to be posted to a student's academic record and official documentation issued.

Exceptions to Academic Program Requirements

Academic policies and curricular requirements are designed to ensure that programs at NDSU are consistently of high quality. Students are expected to complete all curricular requirements for a degree program; this includes:

- Overall University requirements (including general education),
- Any college or department requirements if applicable, and
- Major program of study requirements.

Students may request course substitutions or waivers of department requirements or major program of study requirements when faced with extenuating circumstances. The academic department chairperson or curriculum coordinator may approve these student requests using the substitution/waiver form process established by the Office of Registration and Records. Waivers for college requirements require either the College Dean or the college curriculum committee approval also utilizing a substitution/waiver form.

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Academic departments should plan to teach all of the classes associated with each academic program of study curricula so that students may complete their degree in a timely manner. If required courses in the major can no longer be taught, the academic unit has two options available so students may complete their degree requirements:

1. The department chairperson or curriculum coordinator may file individual substitution/waiver forms for students requiring a curricular adjustment,
or
2. Move the student to a newer updated curriculum in the same major.