

Undergraduate Degree and Graduation Information

Undergraduate Majors and Minors

Majors and minors are an integral part of the baccalaureate degree. Minimum credit for majors and minors is guided by Policy and Procedure 409 (https://ndusbpos.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/NDUSPoliciesandProcedures/ESMcRWeGv7tCkvL8r7aqc7MBGr1JIL_U5ES61ZgX5RF86g/?e=Lr8ZKz) 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. Specific major and minor curriculum requirements are available in the Undergraduate Program Curriculum (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2023-24/undergraduate/program-curriculum/>) section of the catalog.

Majors

Major: An undergraduate major is a planned grouping of courses in an academic discipline, called a curriculum, to which a student formally commits to studying by declaring the major. An academic major must total a minimum of 32 semester credits and departments should actively ensure during major development that each major has a minimum of 15 unique credits from any other major offered. Most majors are earned as a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts degree, however, there are a few majors that are earned as a specialized degree. All NDSU degree types can be viewed in the Degree Types and Diploma Information (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2023-24/academic-policies/degree-and-graduation/>) in the catalog.

Second/Double or Multiple Majors: Students may pursue more than one major under a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts degree. The student will identify one of the primary major and this major will determine from what college the degree will be awarded. To be eligible for multiple majors, all requirements from each major curriculum must be satisfactorily completed along with other undergraduate degree requirements. ***Important Note:*** When majors with different degree types are declared, the requirements for a second degree apply - see the section **Second Degree**.

Once a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts degree is awarded, students may complete additional majors or minors under that specific degree type. Subsequent majors or minors appear as a milestone statement on the academic record following the term for which the requirements were completed.

Dual Major: A dual major is different than a second/double major or declaring multiple majors. With a dual major, two majors have been formally combined into a single curriculum. Typically, a dual major has fewer overall required classes than if a student were to declare both majors individually. Departments must request formal approval of a dual major through the same governance process and students must officially declare a dual major. Dual majors are identified on the official major curriculum (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2023-24/undergraduate/program-curriculum/>) list in the catalog.

Minors

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

Additional minors may be completed and recorded on a student's academic record after earning a degree. A subsequent minor will appear as a milestone statement on the academic record following the term for which the requirements were completed.

Certificates

Certificate: A certificate program is a specialized course of study requiring a minimum of 9 credits at the undergraduate level and a minimum 8 credit hours at the graduate level. Certificates may be earned while in pursuit of a degree or as a stand-alone program of study. Curricular requirements are available on the official major curriculum list (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2023-24/undergraduate/program-curriculum/>) in the catalog.

Prospective students interested in certificate programs must make application to the university through the Office of Admission for undergraduate certificates or through the Graduate School at the graduate level.

Second Degree

A second baccalaureate degree type may be earned at NDSU with 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.). Students cannot earn more than one degree type, however, students may complete requirements for more than one major within a given degree, if available (see Second/Double or Multiple Majors).

Exceptions to Academic Program Requirements

Academic policies associated with degree requirements and graduation, transfer credit, and general education, as well as curricular requirements for programs of study 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, which includes:

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

However, limited exceptions may be granted under some circumstances. In consultation with an academic advisor, a student may request a course substitution or waiver to a curricular requirement. An advisor begins the process by completing and submitting the Substitution/Waiver form, which is routed to the academic department chairperson or curriculum coordinator for formal approval.

Academic departments should plan to teach all of the classes in a major program of study, thus allowing students to 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.