

Reference Number: F81-82

Senate Approval Date: Tuesday, September 01, 1981

THE MAJOR IN THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE AND IN THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

At its meeting of the December 8, 1981, the Academic Senate approved the policy for the Major in the Bachelor of Arts Degree and in the Bachelor of Science Degree (Senate Policy F81-82).

Definition:

The Bachelor of Arts degree is universally considered to represent a broad liberal arts education which prepares students to function as useful and responsible citizens in a variety of roles. It is less specialized than the Bachelor of Science degree, yet contains a depth component which permits advanced study in the many disciplines. It is less career-specific than most professional degrees, but provides an important foundation of skills and knowledge useful in many, if not most, careers.

Because the Bachelor of Arts degree serves a variety of purposes - academic, personal, citizenship, career preparation - the Bachelor of Arts degree must reflect a balance among three components: the major, or depth, component; the general education, or breadth, component; and electives chosen to fit the individual student's background, preferences, and needs. The elective component may be used, depending on the individual's particular circumstances, to add strength to the major, to complement the general education, to explore or develop personal or career interests, or to qualify for advance study in the major or an associated field.

The Bachelor of Science degree, like the Bachelor of Arts, prepares students to function as useful and responsible citizens in a variety of roles. Because Bachelor of Science degree major programs are typically more specialized and career-specific than most Bachelor of Arts degree majors, the number of required units in Bachelor of Science major programs is typically larger than in Bachelor of Arts degree majors, sometimes in response to the requirements of accrediting agencies. Bachelor of Science degree major programs are often systematically and extensively data-oriented, more so than is typical of many Bachelor of Arts major programs, include practical applications (such as field study, field work, practica, or internships) and/or laboratory activity (research, experimentation, investigation). In addition, most Bachelor of Science degree major programs involve a high level of interdependence and interrelationship of component required courses and consequently incorporate a pattern of sequential studies.

Unit Limits:

Because the Bachelor of Arts degree involves a broad base of study, it must reserve to the student a substantial opportunity to study in related fields. For this reason, the Bachelor of Arts degree major does not normally exceed 45 units. Majors which exceed 45 units at the time this policy is approved must, within one year, either be reduced to 45 units or present a justification for excess units before the Educational Policies Council. The EPC then will recommend that the major be exempted from the 45-unit limit or that the degree title be changed to a more appropriate one.

Because the student must complete all university requirements for graduation (including the major program, general education, English 114, and the state statutory requirement) without exceeding degree unit totals, the Bachelor of Science degree major program cannot exceed 70 units in a 124-unit degree, or 78 units in a 132-unit degree, or 86 units in a 140-unit degree. Programs which exceed these unit totals at the time this policy is approved must undertake one of the following options within one year: a) reduce the number of required units to

within these limits, or b) increase the size of the degree if permissible under Title 5.

In counting the units in any major, all prerequisites will be included. Units which count toward both general education requirements and a major degree program requirement will not be included.

***** APPROVED BY PRESIDENT ROMBERG JANUARY 15, 1982 *****
