

(approved May 8, 2018 CUSA – pending CAC decision)

Proposed Changes to the Policy on Double Degrees (and majors/minors) in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

After extensive discussion, CUSA proposes that all restrictions related to course overlap among degrees, majors, or minors be removed as a College-level policy restriction and replaced by the option for each department/program to determine what restrictions, if any, should exist related to each program (for example, Biology may determine that students who earn a Biochemistry degree cannot also earn a Chemistry minor due to extensive curriculum overlap).

It makes sense that if a student earns a particular major, for example, following the set curriculum, they would earn that degree/major. Likewise if they completed all requirements for a particular minor, they would earn that minor. CUSA felt that any overlap that might occur while completing requirements for different programs should be considered by awarding departments the option to determine whether a student could earn both, despite potential overlap.

Double Degrees in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The following combinations of degrees are allowable within the College **as long as the student has completed at least 15 hours unique to each major**, subject to restrictions placed by departments or programs on the allowable course overlap.

- 2 (or more) B.S. degrees. These must be different B.S. degrees, not different concentrations within the same B.S. degree **and must conform to any restrictions placed by awarding departments or programs on the allowable course overlap.**
- B.A. and B.S. degrees as long as the degrees are in different majors. Students may not, for example, earn both a B.A. and a B.S. in mathematics. **Allowable course overlap between the two degrees is determined by each department or program.**
- B.G.S. and B.S. degrees as long as the degrees are in different majors. Students may not, for example, earn both a B.G.S. and a B.S. in economics. **Allowable course overlap between the two degrees is determined by each department or program.**
- Students may complete the requirements for more than one emphasis area or concentration in a major or degree program but should be aware that they are not completing a second degree or major. The following example illustrates this point: A student who completes all requirements for both the traditional English option and the creative - writing option is earning one degree, either the B.A. in English or the B.G.S. in English.
- Students may earn a B.A. or a B.G.S. with more than one major but not more than one B.A. or B.G.S. degree from the College. **Allowable course overlap between the two degrees is determined by each department or program.**
- Students normally may not earn a B.A. degree and a B.G.S. degree. Exceptions to this must be approved by the Committee on Undergraduate Studies and Advising (CUSA). Requests for exceptions should be discussed with the director of College Student Academic Services.

Majors and Minors

Double Major

A student may earn a double major if he or she satisfies the requirements of both majors ~~and completes 15 hours unique to each major~~ in consultation with advisors in each department, ~~as awarding departments and programs may place restrictions on the allowable course overlap.~~

Minors

Requirements for the minor vary, but all must be at least 18 hours including 12 hours at the junior/senior level (numbered 300 and above). Nine of the junior/senior-level hours must be taken in residence at KU. ~~One course overlap may be used to fulfill requirements for both the major and the minor.~~ Students may not earn a minor unless they have completed a major and have completed at least one course for the minor after the date the minor was approved by College Assembly. Successful completion of a minor requires a minimum KU grade-point average of 2.0 in all courses taken for the minor. For requirements for each minor, see the programs listed on the Departments & Programs page.

Overlap Between Requirements

A course may be used to fulfill a KU Core or College degree-specific requirement and a minor or major requirement.

A student may earn more than one major/minor if he or she satisfies the requirements of all majors/minors. ~~Course overlap is generally allowed between two majors, a major and a minor, or between two minors, but is subject to restrictions set by awarding departments or programs with reference to specific combinations of majors and minors. Any restrictions set by departments or programs are communicated as a part of the approved major and minor requirements.~~ ~~and completes 15 hours unique to each major in consultation with advisors in each department.~~

~~One course overlap is allowed between major requirements and minor requirements.~~

~~One course overlap is allowed between two minors.~~

Implementation Timeline

Tentatively set for Fall 2020 as approved by CUSA at the November 13, 2018 meeting. This implementation term is pending completion of actions by affected departments who have indicated they will either submit curriculum changes or department-level overlap restrictions prior to policy change.

Karen Ledom is working directly with each of these 8 departments and will monitor submission progress and report back to CUSA regularly throughout the Spring 2019 semester. At the end of the spring semester CUSA will assess whether all departments have submitted planned changes and determine if another implementation extension is needed with the goal of allowing all departments sufficient opportunity to put in place any desired department-level changes.

Summary of Actions to date re: Proposal to change policy on double degrees and unique hours in the College

Spring 2018 – CUSA considered the current College-level restrictions to completion of dual degrees, majors, and minors and whether these restrictions are unnecessarily broad if applied to all degrees, majors, and minors in the College. The committee determined that each department/program should have the option to review whether their programs have overlap and if so, whether that is of concern to them. If there is such a concern, the department will have the option of either changing curriculum to reduce the overlap, or instituting overlap restrictions that are specific to their programs.

March 27, 2018 – CUSA approved the proposal and sent it to CAC for further review.

April 10, 2018 – CAC considered the proposal but requested additional information regarding the implementation process as well as additional follow up with departments that would be most impacted. The proposal was sent back to CUSA.

May 8, 2018 – CUSA revised the proposal based on feedback from CAC, and Karen Ledom provided an outreach plan to departments to seek additional feedback and address any specific concerns.

September 2018 – Karen Ledom surveyed all department chairs and undergraduate coordinators, providing the draft proposal again and asking departments to indicate:

1. Does your unit offer a major or minor that overlaps significantly with another major or minor, either within your unit or in another College unit?
2. **If the answer to number 1 is YES**, please indicate which option below (either a or b or c) you will pursue if the new policy is approved:
 - a. We would allow students to earn overlapping majors/minors (i.e., no concern with new policy)
 - b. We would like to consider changes to our curriculum to address the overlap (i.e., reduce overlap).
 - c. We would like to consider implementing a department/program level restriction to the overlap (i.e., adopt department-level overlap restriction policy)

October/November 2018 – Karen Ledom collected all department responses and summarized outcome. Eight departments plan to submit either curriculum changes or department-level overlap restrictions. All other departments indicated support of the change with no further action considered.

November 13, 2018 – CUSA voted to extend the implementation term to Fall 2020 in order to provide those departments sufficient time to implement department-level changes.

FEBRUARY 2019 – Karen Ledom followed up with the eight departments to obtain status update on each unit's planned changes.

FEBRUARY 2019 – Revised CUSA proposal with additional detail added to CAC agenda for consideration.

Spring 2019 – Karen Ledom will check in regularly with the eight departments and monitor submission progress and report back to CUSA. At the end of Spring 2019 CUSA will determine whether another implementation extension is needed in order to accommodate departments.