

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 1/1/2021

From: Crystal G. Herman, Liberal Arts Curriculum Review Committee

Through: Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee

Through: Dean O'hearn, College of Liberal Arts

To: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Proposal Title: BA Degree Requirement Update

This proposal allows for more freedom in BA student degree plans. In the College of Liberal Arts we believe that a Liberal Arts degree should include a degree of freedom and flexibility for students. This update was necessary due to new legislation such as the field of study requirements. Due to these requirements, we did not comply with the law as it concerns transfer students in some of our most populated majors.

This proposal cuts the number of required Block Electives to 12 credit hours, including 3 to 6 credit hours in each area. In return students are allowed to take free electives. These free electives may be in any college, department, or program. This freedom in the BA degree plan allows students to pursue classes that they might not otherwise be able to take with the new stricter financial aid guidelines. It also allows students to transfer, change colleges, or majors without forfeiting credits that they have already earned. Most importantly, it allows students the freedom to pursue knowledge for its own sake according to their interests and career goals.

This proposal also retains a high standard for the number of upper division credit hours. It required a total 39 upper division hours. While this is less than the current requirement of 45 upper division credit hours, it is still higher than many other Texas institutions. Examples of upper division requirements for other institutions include:

- UT San Antonio (39 upper-division credits)
<https://catalog.utsa.edu/undergraduate/bachelorsdegreeregulations/degreerequirements/>
- U Houston (36 upper-division credits)
http://publications.uh.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=36&poid=12924#degreerequirements
- U North Texas (36 upper-division credits)
http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=2452#General_Degree_Requirements
- UT Arlington (36 upper-division credits*)
<https://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/degreerequirements/undergraduate/>

Bachelor of Arts

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree is offered in the following major fields: ~~Anthropology, Art, Art History, Biology, Chemistry, Chicano Studies, Communication, Creative Writing, Criminal Justice, Economics, English, French, Geological Sciences, History, Latin American and Border Studies, Linguistics, Mathematics, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish, Theatre Arts and Women's and Gender Studies, Digital Media Production, Media Advertising, Multimedia Journalism, Organizational and Corporate Communication, Dance, English and American Literature, Technical Writing and User Experience, Security Studies.~~ Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree are designed to provide an essential unity in the programs of all Liberal Arts students and, at the same time, to offer each student substantial latitude in course selection. The degree consists of a minimum of 120 semester hours, including at least 3945 at the advanced (3000-4000) level ** (see exception for foreign language). Twenty-four (24) of the last 30 hours must be taken in residence. With exceptions noted in departmental program descriptions, a course taken to satisfy one degree area requirement (University Core Curriculum, major, or minor) cannot be used to satisfy any other degree area requirement. No course used for Liberal Arts General Education Requirements can be double-counted toward any other requirement.

University Core Curriculum (42 hours)

Students should refer to the *University* [Core Curriculum](#) section of this Catalog for a complete description.

Liberal Arts General Education Requirements (24-27 hours)

Course List

Code	Title	Hours
One Modern or Classical Language		
Six credits of Foreign Language (all six credits should be in the same language sequence)		6
Blocks		
A total of <u>1218</u> upper-division hours distributed among three blocks.**		<u>1218</u>
Fine Visual and Performing Arts		
courses with prefixes in Art, Art History, Museum Studies, Dance, Music, and Theatre Arts and Film		
Humanities		
courses with prefixes in Creative Writing, English, History, Languages and Linguistics, and Philosophy, Legal Reasoning, North American Studies, Asian Studies		
Social and Behavioral Sciences		
courses with prefixes in Anthropology, Communication, Criminal Justice, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology and INSS, LABS, Military Science,		
* At least three (3) hours must be taken in each block. No more than nine (9) of the 18 required hours can be taken in any one block. No course to meet this requirement can be		

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taken in the student's major or minor, with the exception of up to 6 credit hours of foreign language

** Foreign language can be 2000 level and count as a block elective under Humanities, if taken in addition to the 6 credit hours required for Liberal Arts General Education Courses in African American Studies, Chicano Studies, Latin American and Border Studies, Religious Studies, Western Cultural Heritage (Humanities), and Women's Studies that are also cross-listed will be counted in the block to which the course is cross-listed. If a course is not cross-listed, each studies program will determine into which block its courses fit.

Major Field (27-36 hours)

Students complete a major prescribed by an academic department in the College of Liberal Arts (or Science or Business Administration [for the Economics major]) of at least 27 hours, 18 or more of which must be advanced (3000-or 4000-level). Students should refer to the individual departmental listings in this catalog for specific major field requirements.

Nine (9) of the advanced hours in the major must be completed in residence within three years of the date of graduation. No course taken on a Pass/Fail basis can be counted for the major, even if the student changes majors after having taken the course. A completed degree plan must include a minimum grade point average (GPA) of C (2.0) in the major. Credit for courses taken to fulfill the major field requirements cannot also be counted to satisfy minor or College General Education field requirements.

Electives

Students complete electives as needed to bring the total semester hours of credit to at least 120. In most cases students will need to complete 6 credit hours of electives. Elective credit cannot also be used in meeting any other degree requirement. Electives of advanced (3000-4000) level can, however, be applied toward satisfaction of the requirement of 39 advanced hours.

A student who fulfills requirements for two majors prescribed by academic departments in the College of Liberal Arts (or Science or Business Administration [for the Economics major]) can earn a degree with a double major, provided that the two majors are from different fields. The second major fulfills the requirement for a minor field. A student who fulfills the specified requirements for two different majors under a single degree from the same college, simultaneously, completes a double major. Students may double major in the same department with the approval of the academic dean. For example, a student may simultaneously complete a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science - both B.A. degrees from different departments in the College of Liberal Arts - and earn a double major.

The student must complete a minimum additional 24 credit hours beyond the degree plan with the greater required credit hours and also complete all degree requirements for both degrees. A minimum of 144 total semester credit hours is required for completion of a double major.

The graduation term must be the same for both majors. When applying for graduation, a student should note on the application that he/she will be completing an additional major. One diploma is issued and both majors are recorded on a student's transcript and diploma.

Commented [RJA1]: This is UTEP's requirements for a dual major. We can also instead provide a link to this information rather than list the details here.
<http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/academic-regulations/#generalrequirementsforugdegreestext>

The student must earn a minimum GPA of C (2.0) in both majors. Credit for courses taken to fulfill the major field requirements in one major cannot also be counted to satisfy requirements in the other major field.

Dual Degree

A student who fulfills the specified requirements for two different majors from different degrees simultaneously, or who fulfills the specified requirements for two degrees in different colleges simultaneously, will earn dual degrees. For example, a student may simultaneously complete a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, both in the College of Liberal Arts, and earn dual degrees. A student may also simultaneously complete a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the College of Liberal Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the College of Science, and earn dual degrees.

The student must complete a minimum additional 24 credit hours beyond the degree plan with the greater required credit hours and also complete all degree requirements for both degrees. No one course can be counted in the semester credit hours in more than one major. In the event that a single course is listed in the degree requirements for both degrees, a student may receive approval from his/her academic advisor to complete another course to fulfill the semester credit hour requirement of the second degree. A minimum of 144 total semester credit hours is required for completion of dual degrees.

The graduation term must be the same for both degrees. Upon graduation, the student must complete two graduation applications (one application for each degree). Upon graduation a student can attend multiple commencement ceremonies if the majors span across different colleges.

Electives

~~Students complete electives as needed to bring the total semester hours of credit to at least 120. Elective credit cannot also be used in meeting any other degree requirement. Electives of advanced (3000-4000) level can, however, be applied toward satisfaction of the requirement of 45 advanced hours.~~

Commented [RJA2]: If we are going to provide the details of the double major, rather than providing a link, we should also include the information about a dual degree. I do think it would be good to provide the link instead because then this information only needs to be updated in one place within the catalog. It is hard to update information when it is in multiple places in the catalog but we can, of course, provide the full information on this page.