

## Proposal #1 to Revise the Second Bachelor's Degree Policy for Concurrent Degrees

Approved by the Curriculum/Policies subcommittee, 11/25/14

### Proposal:

The UA should permit undergraduate students to earn two degrees in different majors with a minimum of 120 units provided that: (a) both degrees are awarded simultaneously—on the same date, (b) all major, minor, and General Education requirements are completed, and (c) the degrees have different titles (e.g., a B.A and B.S).

### Rationale:

- Currently, all second UA bachelor's degrees require no fewer than 30 units in addition to the units required for the first degree (for a total of 150 units), even if all major, minor, and General Education requirements for both degrees are met with fewer units. Many students must take elective units to earn two UA degrees.
- The 30 additional units has been a deterrent for dual/concurrent degrees, even for students whose career goals are more readily attained with two different baccalaureate degrees.
- The faculty's philosophy in 2006 (when the current policy was approved) was that: (a) the University's primary responsibility was to serve students enrolled in their first baccalaureate program, and (b) most graduates with one degree were ready to continue their studies in a graduate program, even if the graduate program required more undergraduate course work in preparation.
- Course availability has increased since 2006, and the faculty recognizes that there are valid reasons for students to pursue two different baccalaureate degrees instead of (or prior to) enrolling in a graduate program.
- Most UA peers require 30 additional units for a sequential second degree; however, more universities (including ASU and NAU) waive the additional unit requirement for concurrent degrees—as long as both are awarded on the same date.
- Students simultaneously pursuing a second program with the same degree title as the primary program (e.g., B.S. in Plant Sciences and B.S. in Microbiology) must declare that program as a second major, not a second degree—as per current policy.

**Proposed Revision to 2014-15 Catalog Policy**, <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2014-15/policies/degreeapp.htm>  
(the amendment in bold red font):

*Candidates for a second bachelor's degree at The University of Arizona must earn no fewer than 30 units in addition to the units required for the first degree, and must meet all requirements for the second degree. The additional units may be completed concurrently with those applying to the first degree; however, at least 30 unique units of University Credit (units in residence not used for the first degree) must be completed for the second degree. If the degrees are completed concurrently, the 30 additional units **are added to the degree with the higher unit requirement of UA credit are not necessary. The student may earn concurrent (simultaneous) degrees with a minimum of 120 units and the completion of all major, minor, and General Education requirements, as long as both degrees are awarded on the same date.***

*Students may apply for a simultaneous or sequential second degree only if the degree title and major differ from the first. Students pursuing another academic program that would lead to the same degree title as the primary program must declare that program as an additional major, not a second degree.*

### Proposed Effective Term:

Summer/Fall 2015 for all incoming and enrolled students, regardless of Catalog year.