

Proposal #2 to Revise the Second Bachelor's Degree Policy for Sequential Degrees

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

Proposal:

The UA should permit students to earn two degrees in different majors with identical degree titles (e.g., a B.A. in Spanish and a B.A. in Latin American Studies) provided that: (a) the degrees are awarded sequentially—on different dates, (b) no fewer than 30 units of University Credit are earned in addition to the units required for the first degree—for a minimum of 150 units, and (c) at least 50 percent of all course work required in the major of the second degree is earned after conferral of the first degree.

Rationale:

- Currently, all students 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.
- This policy is justified for concurrent degrees—those awarded on the same date—but is unnecessary for sequential degrees, when many students return with new career goals that might be attained with a different major but the same degree title.
- The faculty's philosophy in 2006 (when the current policy was approved) was that a second degree, regardless of the award date, should be substantially different than the first or primary degree. Two degrees with the same title (e.g., two B.A. programs or two B.F.A. programs) were perceived as largely the same, regardless of different majors, so they didn't meet this criterion.
- With increased demand for sequential baccalaureate degrees and the option of fully online programs for returning students, the faculty recognizes that there are valid reasons for students to pursue a second baccalaureate degree with the same title.
- Most UA peers, like the UA, require 30 additional units in residence for a sequential second degree, which ensures that students' second degrees consist of different, updated course content, primarily in the major.

Proposed Revision to 2014-15 Catalog Policy, <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2014-15/policies/degreeapp.htm>

(revisions are in bold red font):

Candidates for a second bachelor's degree at The University of Arizona **with a different award date than the first** must earn no fewer than 30 units **of University Credit (in residence)** 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.~~ **For partly overlapping but sequential degrees—when the second award date differs from the first—the 30 additional units are added to the first degree's total units for a minimum of 150. with the higher unit requirement.**

Students may apply for a **sequential** second degree **only even** if the degree title **and major differ from is the same as** the first (e.g., B.S. in Plant Sciences and B.S. in Microbiology). ~~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.~~ For sequential degrees, students must complete at least 50 percent of all course work required in the major of the second degree after the conferral of the first degree.

Proposed Effective Term:

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