

Minor requirement proposal

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Minor requirements

1. A student's total number of majors plus minors may not exceed four. (This will be called the "**Rule of Four.**") Includes co-terminal . Ex. If a student has one major and are coterminal, they are allowed to add up to 2 minors
2. For non-coterminal, no more than 3 minors will be added to a student's record
3. Major and minor can't be declared from the same department, except with department approval.
4. Students must submit the Minor request form by the last day of "drop/add" in the semester in which they plan to graduate to assure timely processing
5. If minor requirements are not completed by the final semester in which the student will be completing major degree requirements, the minor will be removed from the student's record
6. Minor requirements cannot be taken as fail/pass
7. **For majors with a required minor**, 1 course for the minor may overlap with 1 major requirement, but missing credits needs to be made up with another major course or free elective. However, if 2 or more classes overlap between major and minor, choose a different minor due to significant overlap
8. **For majors without a required minor**, minor courses can be shared freely with core electives, free electives, technical electives, and 1 major course
9. **When sharing classes across minors**, there must be at least 3 courses which are unique to each minor and do not overlap with requirements for another minor

Rationale

1. Minors are meant to help students explore another area of study or interest outside of the major department. Specializations are a focused area of study within the major field
2. Sharing classes between minors and majors within the same department which have the same course requirements becomes an issue. Many substitutions are needed to replace classes that cannot double or triple count, therefore the student doesn't complete the actual requirements for the minor and defeats the purpose of having the minor Example 1: AI major with CS minor. Example 2: CAE major with Construction Management minor. Example 3: AMAT major with STATS minor.-- this would work better as a specialization. If a student wants a minor within their department, then the department can consider creating a specialization
3. Students think they are saving time when adding minors that have the same requirements and believe they could share classes without having to make up the missing credit hours. Not the case. Credits need to be substituted
4. Students will add on minors in the last semester to extend their time in college for various reasons

Definitions

1. Minor: A minor consists of at least five courses (minimum of 15 credit hours), of which at least four courses (minimum 12 credit hours) are not required for a degree program. Some majors require students to declare a minor. In those cases, the minor must be outside the major department.

- a. Required minor (formerly “entailed minor”): a minor required by a program
2. Specialization/Concentration: a minimum of 9 hours in a specialized field in a student’s major. Specializations are optional.
3. Track: a required area of study in a major
4. Entailed minor is now referred to as required minor.

Example schools

1. Northwestern limits to 3 minors 9 (A rule of 3); no sharing courses between minors
<https://weinberg.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/major-minor/minor-and-certificate-options/rules-policies.html#:~:text=A%20student's%20total%20number%20of,this%20%22Rule%20of%20Three.%22>
 - a. Northwestern–You may not count any course toward more than one minor. If you take two minors that require one particular course, consult with your minor advisers about possible substitutions.
 - b. Northwestern–You generally may not count a course towards a minor and a major requirement– we have the exception if the course is a “choice” course requirement (i.e. technical courses); we need to revisit this exception to the rule.
2. U of C - declare minor by Junior year
<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/minors/>
3. University of Washington- limits to 3 minors
<http://collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/minors/>
4. Northeastern University - limits to 2 minors. No Major and minor can be from same department
<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/professional-studies/undergraduate-minors/>
5. UIC - Major and minor cant be from same department
6. UIUC- deadline to declare a minor
 "The Statement of Intent to Pursue a Campus-Approved Minor must be submitted to the student’s college of enrollment prior to the last day to add a class in the semester in which the student intends to graduate to assure timely processing." <https://provost.illinois.edu/education-1/advising-resources/pursuing-undergraduate-minor/>
7. USC - limit course sharing between minors. Credit required and overlaps allowed. Minor and graduation.
<https://undergrad.usc.edu/programs/minor/rules/#:~:text=Minors%20must%20be%20completed%20simultaneously,order%20to%20pursue%20a%20minor>
8. DePaul.- Reason to declare a minor
<https://catalog.depaul.edu/student-handbooks/undergraduate/undergraduate-academic-policies/supplementary-credentials/earning-a-minor/>