

Faculty Senate Resolution 02–05: Listing a Second Major on the Transcript of a Student Obtaining One Bachelor’s Degree

Presented by Carruth McGehee at the Meeting on March 7, 2002

Adopted by the Senate at the Meeting of April 9, 2002

Whereas, when completing a bachelor’s degree program (hereinafter referred to as the "primary degree program"), some students complete also a minor and/or a major (hereinafter referred to as a "second major") beyond that program; and

Whereas, there are about 100 minors (listed on pages 23–25 of the 2001–2002 catalog) which have been made available, with appropriate restrictions, by the units that offer the courses; students are often encouraged by their College or School to complete such a minor in addition to a primary degree program; and each completed minor is listed on the student’s transcript, regardless of whether the minor is offered by the student’s College or School or by a different one; and

Whereas, there are numerous majors which, with appropriate limitations, are made available as second majors by the units that offer the courses; and students are often encouraged by their College or School to complete such a major in addition to a primary degree program; and

Whereas, in the case when two majors (Psychology and Sociology, for example) are offered by the same College or School, and are under the same degree program, if a student completes the requirements of the degree program and of both majors, then the transcript will list both majors; and

Whereas, in the case when the primary degree program and the degree program of the second major are different but offered by the same College or School (as with a B.A. in French and a B.S. in Mathematics), if a student completes the requirements of both degree programs and both majors, then the transcript will list both majors; and

Whereas, however, in the case when the two degree programs are offered by different Colleges or Schools, then the transcript will list the second major *only if the student, additionally, satisfies the "30-hour rule" and obtains both degrees* (see "Enrollment in Two Colleges", page 60 of the 2001–2002 catalog, Appendix 1 of this Resolution); and

Whereas, we believe that there should be no such higher barrier to the transcript listing of a second major in the case when two Colleges or Schools are involved; such a higher barrier is an artifact of our organizational structure and entails anomalous results, as for example when the transcript will recognize the completion of a minor, but not of a major in the same discipline;

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Faculty Senate recommends that the conditions for merely listing a second major on the transcript (as opposed to granting two degrees) should no longer in any case include the "30-hour rule." We ask the Provost to implement this change in policy as soon as feasible, and to report to the Senate. Appendix 1 suggests possible modifications in catalog wording. We make the following affirmations:

- It is within the province of the Department and the College or School that offer a major to

maintain appropriate restrictions on enrollment in the courses thereof, and to decide whether or under what conditions it may be used as a second major.

- It is within the province of a College or School to impose appropriate conditions on its students' programs of study and to decide whether to encourage particular second majors.
- This Resolution would make no change in the requirements for obtaining two degrees, which would still include the "30-hour rule."
- The use of the term "second major" is not meant to preclude a student's completing, and the transcript listing, more than two majors.

Appendix 1: The Statement on p. 60 of the Catalog, and a Suggested Revision

Enrollment in Two Degree Programs

With the dean's approval, a student may be enrolled in two degree programs concurrently. A student can enroll as a dual registrant using one of the following procedures:

- *Dual Enrollment Within the College*--By completing residence and academic requirements for two degree programs, a student may earn one bachelor's degree with two majors. By completing residence and academic requirements, *and* earning 30 hours over the degree requiring the fewer number of hours, a student will earn two separate bachelor's degrees.
- *Enrollment in Two Colleges*--By completing residence and academic requirements for two degree programs and earning 30 hours more than the degree requiring the fewer number of hours, a student can earn two bachelor's degrees. The student must be accepted for admission to both colleges and must adhere to the regulations of both colleges. In addition, the student must declare a home college where registration will be initiated and permanent files maintained. It is the student's responsibility, however, to maintain contact with the second college to ensure that satisfactory progress is being made toward that degree.

Suggested Revision:

Earning Two Degrees, or One Degree with Two Majors

With the dean's approval, a student may enroll in two bachelor's degree programs concurrently, and thereby either earn two degrees, or earn one degree with two majors listed on the transcript, provided all requirements are completed as of the same commencement.

A student may earn one degree, with two majors listed on the transcript, by completing the residence and academic requirements for each major and the degree program to which it belongs. The student may earn two degrees by, in addition, earning 30 hours more than required for the degree that requires the smaller number of hours.

If the two programs are in different colleges, then the student must be accepted for admission to both colleges and must adhere to the regulations of both colleges. The student must declare a home college, where registration will be initiated and permanent files maintained, and must maintain contact with the second college to ensure that satisfactory progress is being made toward the requirements of its degree program.

Appendix 2: Examples from Actual LSU Transcripts

1.

12/21/2001 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE: COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY
MAJOR: SOCIOLOGY
CONCENTRATION: CRIMINOLOGY

2.

12/21/2001 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE: COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
MAJOR: GENERAL STUDIES
MINOR: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
MINOR: PSYCHOLOGY
MINOR: SOCIOLOGY

3.

05/18/2001 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE: COLLEGE OF BASIC SCIENCES
MAJOR: BIOCHEMISTRY
CONCENTRATION: PREPROFESSIONAL
MAJOR: ZOOLOGY
CONCENTRATION: ZOOLOGY

Appendix 3: Catalog Provisions at Other Universities

What follows is a report on all the Universities I looked up. The gist of what I found is this: The availability of second majors varies widely. But at the Universities I looked at, wherever a second major is available across college lines, it is recognized on the transcript without requiring that the student must also meet the requirements of the second degree. So in terms of general practice, it appears that the Resolution takes but a modest step.

Such information is easy to find on the internet. One should realize that (1) catalogs do not always contain complete information about how things actually work, or how frequently a given thing is done; and (2) the version of the catalog that is on line is not always the most recent.

The **University of Florida** catalog, on page I–22, provides the following one–paragraph summary:

- Colleges at their discretion may permit students to pursue dual degrees or multiple majors. A student completing major and college requirements in two different colleges will receive two degrees. The transcript will list each degree and the appropriate majors. A student completing major and college requirements in one college and major requirements only in another college, will receive a degree from the first college. The transcript will list the degree and each major. A student completing multiple majors that have the same degree, i.e., Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, will receive a single degree. The transcript will list the degree and each major.

Robert Doolos called the Registrar at the University of Florida, Barbara Talmadge (who used to be Director of Records and Registration at LSU), to confirm our interpretation of "major requirements only." Barbara said that the term indeed means just the courses required in the major field. °Thus the UF policy, in LSU terms, would mean that a Basic Sciences physics major who is also majoring in math, in order to get the math major listed on the transcript, would take all the math courses required for the math major, and would not be required to take (for example) the additional foreign language courses that math majors are required to take to get an A&S degree. Barbara also said that this policy was implemented within the last couple of years at UF.

The **University of Texas at Austin** seems not to allow two simultaneous degrees or two majors. However, it may be of interest that a student may get a B.A. from the College of Liberal Arts while majoring in another college or school. The catalog says: "With the approval of the deans of the colleges involved, a Bachelor of Arts, Plan I, student may major in another college or school on the Austin campus. The dean of the College of Liberal Arts may, in consultation with other faculty members and deans, arrange for the development of major programs in other colleges and schools on the Austin campus. If a student wishes to major in a department in another school or college for which a major program has not already been developed, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and other deans involved may prepare such a program on the petition of the student, with the condition that the deans must approve the major in question."

The catalog of the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, under the heading "Double-Majoring," reads as follows:

- It is possible to graduate with two majors (but always, only one diploma) as long as you completely fulfill the requirements of both. Before declaring the second major, you should meet with a member of your advising team and weigh the advantages against the additional courses that may be required. Courses in the departments of a first major and a second major/or minor (and courses cross-listed with those departments) may not be used to satisfy Arts and Sciences perspective requirements. Courses that can be used for both a major in an interdisciplinary curriculum and a major in a single department may be double-counted for double majors with the following general limitation: more than half of the courses taken in each major must also be exclusive to that major and not double-counted. For double majors with the professional schools, consult those professional schools.
- Students pursuing two major fields of study for the Bachelor of Arts degree earn one degree and receive one diploma. The diploma and official transcript will note the degree and both majors. Students who have both a BS and BA major will receive only the BS degree but will have the second major noted on their diploma and transcript. Students who complete requirements for two BS degrees will earn only one degree and diploma, but the diploma and the official transcript will both indicate the degree (with its major) and the second Bachelor of Science major program for which requirements were completed.

The **University of Virginia** catalog (the "Undergraduate Record") seems no longer to mention second majors. (Incidentally, the Arts and Sciences section says "A degree program must be completed in four academic years and, under certain conditions, can be completed in three.") However, as recently as 1996–1997, the Arts & Sciences section said "Students who double major must submit at least 18 credits in each major that are not duplicated in the other major."

The **University of Tennessee at Knoxville** catalog, under general academic provisions, says "Students may pursue any available minors or second majors which will be so noted on their transcripts upon graduation. Students should understand that meeting the requirements of minors or second majors may lengthen their academic programs and should consult closely with advisers in both areas." Within the Arts and Sciences section, one of the requirements listed for earning a B.A. or B.S. degree is "Completion of at least one major." Also within the A&S section is the following paragraph, entitled "Optional Multiple Majors:"

- After the general requirements of basic skills, distribution and a major have been satisfied, additional majors may be recorded on the transcript without regard to course overlap among majors or among the additional majors and Basic Skills and Distribution requirements. Students developing multiple majors must declare this intent at the time of application for graduation. Once a student has graduated, the establishment of additional majors becomes subject to University second degree requirements. Students who satisfy the requirements of a degree in a college other than Arts and Sciences may also major inside the College of Arts and Sciences with the approval of the degree granting unit. These students need complete only the major requirements, not the Basic Skills or Distribution requirements for Arts and Sciences degrees. The Arts and Sciences major may also be listed on the student's transcript.

The **University of Kentucky's** catalog, under General Regulations, says the following about double majors and second degrees:

- An undergraduate student earns a double major when he or she completes all university, college, and departmental requirements in one department — the Primary Major — and all departmental requirements in a second department — the Secondary Major. If there is a generic relationship, work in the Primary Major may be applicable to the Secondary Major. The student must indicate the double major to the Registrar and to the student records office in his or her college(s). The student must have an advisor in each major. The student who completes the requirements for a double major receives a degree from the college of his or her Primary Major and has the successful completion of the Secondary Major entered on his or her transcript. A Secondary Major may be completed after the degree for the Primary Major has been awarded. A double major does not result in an additional degree.
- A student is eligible to qualify for a second bachelor's degree in a different major. The student must complete all university, college, and departmental requirements for both degrees. Courses taken towards fulfilling one degree may also count towards fulfilling parallel requirements in the other, but the total credits in the two degree programs must be at least 144 hours. The student may elect to receive the degrees simultaneously, if college and departmental requirements can be met simultaneously.

The **University of Illinois** website makes frequent mention of double majors and double degrees. Double degrees entail a "30-hour rule." In some cases there seems to be no way to get two majors from two colleges without satisfying the 30-hour rule and getting two degrees. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences allows double majors within its own departments, and also will recognize (for example) a second major in Finance (located in the College of Commerce and Business Administration); but the Finance Department warns that "if Finance is not your primary major, you may experience difficulty registering for Finance courses"