

Revisions to the Second Bachelor's Degree Policy for Sequential Degrees

Approved by the Faculty Senate, 3/2/15

Approved Revision to Second Bachelor's Degree Policy (changes in bold red font will appear in the 2015-16 General Catalog):

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 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, although some of the excess units may have been completed before conferral of the first degree.** ~~with the higher unit requirement.~~

Students may apply for a **sequential** second degree ~~only if with a degree title and major differ from that 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 **(as defined on the Academic Advisement Report)** of the second degree after conferral of the first degree.

Rationale for the Revision:

- Currently, all students pursuing a second program with the same degree title as the primary program (e.g., B.A. in Spanish and B.A. in Latin American Studies) 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 from the 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 enroll in a second baccalaureate program with the same degree title.
- Most UA peers, like the UA, require 30 additional units of University Credit for a sequential second degree to ensure that students' second degrees consist of updated course work, primarily in the major.

Effective Term:

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