

Development of a Major in a Baccalaureate Degree Program

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Academic/Curriculum

Policy Owner: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Effective date: April 21, 2025

Approval date: April 21, 2025

Schedule for Review: 2030

Policy Summary:

This policy provides a framework for the specification of the courses of instruction in the major.

Policy Statement:

1. The academic, professional, or technical specialization in a baccalaureate degree program is provided through the courses of instruction in the major.
2. The major should provide a survey of the discipline and its major subfields or a survey of an interdisciplinary area and its major subfields.
3. Within a major, the only sub-specializations allowed, at this time, are concentrations. All existing options in a major must be brought forward for designation as a degree program, restructured as concentrations, or deleted from the curriculum.
4. If the proposed major is not analogous to that offered by any comparable institutions, a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 15 courses, or a minimum of 30 or maximum of 45 credits, of instruction may be specified for a major, inclusive of prerequisite courses, core courses, major elective courses, auxiliary courses, and prerequisites to any auxiliary courses.
 - a. Courses that fulfill core requirements as well as general education courses will count toward the 10-15 course or 30-45 credit minimum-maximum rule.
 - i. A survey of comparable institutions should be undertaken to determine typical credit requirements at comparable institutions. These benchmark values may be dependent on external accreditation, certification requirements, and/or similar criteria. Comparable institutions include other liberal arts colleges as identified by the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges or similar bodies. A primary goal of proposed majors should be to meet applicable external accreditation, certification requirements, etc,
5. Any exceptions to policy statement 1-4 must be authorized by the Provost.
6. The faculty decision about how the courses of instruction should be completed must be

presented in a Map to Graduation.

- a. The Four-Year Map to Graduation must demonstrate how the courses of instruction should be completed in four academic years, excluding summers.

Reason for Policy

This policy provides a framework for the specification of the courses of instruction in the major in alignment with Fort Lewis College Policy 4-4 Baccalaureate Degree Requirements and 4-1 Honest Credit Counting Protocols.

Responsibilities:

For enforcement of the policy: Faculty and academic administrators

For oversight of the policy: Provost

For procedures for implementing policy: Faculty Senate, Provost, Registrar

For enforcement of the policy: Provost

Review and Revision History:

This policy supersedes Academic Affairs Policy 4-4: Major Requirements approved April 2013. It revises the minimum-maximum credits for a major from 40-81 credits to 10 to 15 courses or 30-45 credits.