

Committee on Educational Policy
Policy on “Double Counting” of Program Requirements

[This policy is an explanation of Santa Cruz Regulation (SCR) 10.4.]

Upper-division courses may simultaneously satisfy the requirements of distinct majors and/or minors. However, for each major a student completes, there must be at least 40 upper-division credits not used to satisfy the minimum upper-division credits of any other major or minor. For each minor a student completes, there must be at least 25 upper-division credits not used to satisfy the minimum upper-division credits of any other major or minor. This means that it should be possible to take each course that a student has completed and that satisfies the requirements of more than one of the student’s academic programs, count it towards only one of these programs, and end up with at least 40/25 upper-division credits counted towards each major/minor. (See the example at the end of this policy.)

This is the minimum requirement for a student to complete multiple academic programs. Other combinations of academic programs that satisfy this requirement may be forbidden in the General Catalog, if a statement to this effect is included in the program statement for at least one of the academic programs. Such statements may be proposed by the department or by CEP, following the standard catalog review process.

No course overlap can violate SCR 10.4. However, departments can approve **substitutions** of upper-division major/minor requirements in order to satisfy SCR 10.4, without the involvement of CEP.

There is no restriction on overlap of program requirements at the lower division level.

Overlap of capstone (senior exit) requirements

A senior exit experience, at its best, offers students the opportunity to integrate a range of knowledge, skills, and methodologies acquired in the major, and to create something original from this integration. This understanding of the exit requirement implies that, in the normal case, it be unique to a major. CEP therefore does not allow double counting of senior exit requirements **in general**. Proposals to allow overlap of exit requirements for two majors may be submitted to CEP as part of catalog review, for example if an exit requirement is designed to integrate experiences of two majors.¹

¹ It might be helpful to compare the difference between a *double major*, in which students satisfy all requirements of both majors, and a *combined major*, an officially approved major, listed in the catalog, that combines aspects of two separate majors. Indeed, proposing a combined major with one senior exit requirement is an alternative to proposing to allow two separate majors to combine a senior exit requirement. To learn more about combined majors, see <https://senate.ucsc.edu/committees/cep-committee-on-educational-policy/policies-guidelines/ugraddegreedefinitions2018-websw1.pdf>

Proposals to double-count an exit requirement can be made for individual students as well.² Such a proposal must be approved by both departments or referred to CEP. In evaluating such proposals, departments should require the student to have completed significantly more work than the minimum required for the senior exit of each major. The student's work must clearly explain to the reader the relevance of the work to both disciplines.

Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy March 4, 2009 and amended on October 2, 2019

² These apply to senior projects or theses, since comprehensive courses and examinations are specific to each major.

Double Counting Example

In the 2008-09 catalog year, the art major requires 9 upper-division (UD) courses (45 credits). 2 non-studio courses (10 credits) can be from another department (including HAVC).

In the 2008-09 catalog year, the History of Art and Visual Culture minor requires 6 upper-division HAVC courses (30 credits).

If we assume that the student takes HAVC courses for both their “outside-the-department” art major UD requirements (and that both of those HAVC courses meet UD requirements for both the major and the minor), then the student can finish both the major and minor with a total of 13 UD courses (or 65 UD credits).

Here is a visual way of thinking of it:

ART	5 cr.	
ART	5 cr.	
ART	5 cr.	
ART	5 cr.	
ART	5 cr.	
ART	5 cr.	
ART	5 cr.	
HAVC	5 cr.	courses above this line meet the senate regulation’s minimum UD credit requirements for a major (40)
HAVC	5 cr.	courses below this line meet the senate regulation’s minimum UD credit requirements for a minor (25)
HAVC	5 cr.	
HAVC	5 cr.	
HAVC	5 cr.	
HAVC	5 cr.	

Red courses apply only to the art major. **Blue** courses apply only to the HAVC minor. **Purple** courses apply to both programs.