Committee on Educational Policy
Policy on "Double Counting" of Program Requirements

<u>Overlap of upper-division courses</u>

Beginning fall 2008, Santa Cruz Regulation (SCR) 10.4 allows overlap or double-counting of courses at the upper-division level. (In other words, upper-division courses may simultaneously satisfy requirements of distinct majors and/or minors.) However, the Regulation places a limit on the amount of such overlap: 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 there must be at least **25** upper-division credits not used to satisfy the minimum upper-division credits of any other major or minor. These numbers are consistent with the independent requirement (also in SCR 10.4) that any major program include at least 40 upper-division credits and any minor program include at least 25 upper-division credits.

Overlap of program requirements at the lower-division level has always been unrestricted.

CEP believes that Regulation 10.4 suffices to ensure that every major or minor awarded will correspond to adequate work independent of any other major or minor. We therefore recommend against placing further restrictions on upper-division course overlap in general.

However, departments (or other program-sponsors) that believe they have a compelling case for further restrictions on overlap, beyond what SCR 10.4 requires, may make a case to CEP. See below on how to propose such a restriction.

<u>Overlap of capstone (senior exit) requirements</u>

SCR 8.1.1 states that "Each student, in order to graduate, must pass a comprehensive examination or senior thesis administered or approved by the agency supervising the student's major program". In the context of the revised SCR 10.4, the question arises whether senior exit requirements may be "double counted". For example, if a certain senior seminar course satisfies the exit requirement for different majors, can it be taken once to meet the exit requirement of both majors?

CEP thinks it is important to evaluate this question in light of the educational meaning of the exit requirement. (For extensive discussion, see CEP's Report on the Comprehensive/ Senior Exit Requirement. A senior exit experience, at its best, offers students the opportunity to integrate a range of the knowledge, skills, and methodologies acquired in the major, and to create something original from this integration. (This is why CEP recommends that senior exit requirements be senior seminars, projects, theses, etc., and not exams.) 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**.

In particular cases, however, this understanding of the exit requirement **may** allow for overlap. For example, an exit requirement might be designed specifically to integrate experiences of two majors. CEP believes that such an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to overlap should be encouraged. Proposals to allow overlap of exit requirements may be submitted to CEP as detailed below.[1]

Guidelines for proposing exceptions to double counting policy

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.

Policies restricting overlap for two major/minor programs, beyond the requirements of SCR 10.4, and policies allowing double-counting of an exit requirement, must be written into program statements for the general catalog. Therefore, proposals for such exceptions should come to the Committee on Educational Policy in the form of i) revised catalog copy, together with ii) a separate justification for the proposed limitation on overlap (or in the case of exit requirements, a separate justification for the proposed overlap, focusing on the educational benefits to students). Such proposals should be included with any other proposed program statement revisions by the usual December deadline.

Proposals to double-count an exit requirement can be made for individual students as well. This could happen, for example, when a student with two majors wishes to write a thesis that integrates her experience of the two majors. Proposals of this sort can come from the student to CEP, at any time, in the form of a letter of petition. The letter should argue for the educational value of satisfying both senior exit requirements by means of one project or course. In making this argument, the student consults closely with faculty advisors representing each major involved. The letter should be signed by those faculty sponsors, as well as by the Chairs of both departments or programs. **CEP also requires that both departments or programs formally approve the completed project.** CEP will notify the Registrar when it approves proposals of this sort.

Committee on Educational Policy
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[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

UCSC Academic Senate Regulation 10.4.7 Additional major or minors: A student becomes eligible for additional majors or minors by fulfilling the requirements of the declared majors or minors. Courses used to satisfy the requirements for each major must include a minimum of 40 upper-division credits (as per 10.4.3) not used to satisfy the minimum credits of any other major or minor. Courses used to satisfy the requirements for each minor must include a minimum of 25 upper-division credits (as per 10.4.4) not used to satisfy minimum credits of any other major or minor. Courses taken beyond these minimums to satisfy upper-division requirements for a major or minor may be applied toward another major or minor. Departments may approve substitution of appropriate upper-division courses to satisfy the requirements of this section. Lower-division courses may always simultaneously satisfy the requirements of different majors and/or minors.

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.