

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
Amendment to Regulation 10.4 on Majors and Minors

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

CEP is proposing amendments to regulation SCR 10.4 regarding majors and minors. The proposed changes would do the following:

- Require that a major program include a minimum of 40 upper-division credits (typically 8 courses) of course work. Current regulation sets a minimum of 25 upper-division credits for minors but is silent about majors.
- Allow upper-division courses to simultaneously satisfy requirements of distinct majors and/or minors, *subject to the condition that every major or minor program of study include, uniquely to that program of study, the minimum required credits for a major or minor (respectively)*. In other words, there must be a unique 40 credits per major and a unique 25 credits per minor.

Current regulation allows any amount of overlap or double-counting of courses at the lower-division level (i.e., lower-division courses may simultaneously satisfy requirements of distinct majors and/or minors), but prohibits overlap of upper-division courses. Some majors and/or minors (henceforth, “programs of study”) have been granted a systematic exception to this regulation by CEP (as allowed by SCR 10.4).

Many students, including high-achieving students, wish to pursue double majors or minors in addition to their majors, seeking both the challenge and the formal recognition for doing so. In allowing no overlap of courses at the upper-division level, UC Santa Cruz makes it more difficult to do this than any other UC campus does. (Every other campus allows some amount of overlap.) The problem is most acute for students in programs of study requiring many courses.

The argument against allowing double-counting rests on the idea that “a double major or a major and a minor does in fact reflect a significant extra commitment to a concentrated and coherent body of work”; that double majoring be seen as “something exceptional that represent[s] a commitment to a particular body of work, rather than something that could be easily achieved by adding a few courses” (quotes from minutes of the 16 May 2003 Senate meeting, at which this topic was discussed). A countervailing point of view is that “the act of majoring seems more about the acquisition and development of knowledge than simply the accumulation of credits” (from the same meeting). The latter view of major/minor designations, as affirmations of a body of knowledge and ways of thinking that has been acquired, is consistent with overlap of programs of study.

We agree that a second major/minor designation should reflect “a significant extra commitment to a concentrated and coherent body of work.” Worst case scenarios, in which a student fulfills a second major by taking perhaps one or two upper-division courses beyond what is required for her first, would cheapen the meaning of a distinct program of study.

The proposed minimum of 40 upper-division credits for majors comes close to codifying current practice. The requirements of a few major programs on campus would have to be revised to come into compliance with this minimum, or those programs would have to present CEP with a well-reasoned argument for an exception

Current wording

Proposed wording

10.4.1 Students must formally declare their major field at the time of registration for the junior year (or, if admitted to the University of California with upper division standing, during the second term of residency), if they have not done so earlier.

10.4.1 Students must formally declare their major field ~~at the time of registration for the junior year (or, if admitted to the University of California with upper division standing, during the second term of residency)~~ **before enrolling for their third year (or equivalent). Students admitted to the University of California with upper-division standing must formally declare their major field during their second term of residency,** if they have not done so earlier.

10.4.2 Upper division students once formally enrolled in a major may change their major field at any time, provided that they have the consent of the new department.

10.4.2
Unchanged.

10.4.3 Double major.

A student becomes eligible for a double major by fulfilling the requirements of both declared majors. No course can be used to satisfy upper-division requirements for two majors unless the Committee on Educational Policy has granted an exception. In cases of overlapping upper-division requirements, an appropriate upper-division course can be used as a substitute.

**[10.4.3 Double major.
Renumbered to 10.4.7—see below]**

10.4.3 Major.

A student becomes eligible for a major by fulfilling the requirements for the major established by the sponsoring agency. The major will involve substantial work in the discipline, and require no fewer than 40 upper-division or graduate credits, unless an exception is granted by the Committee on Educational Policy.

<p>10.4.4 Minor. A student may minor in a discipline by fulfilling the course requirements for the minor established by the sponsoring agency. The minor will involve substantial work in the discipline, and require no fewer than 25 upper-division or graduate credits, unless an exception is granted by the Committee on Educational Policy. A minor may be offered in a subject not offered as a major. The completion of more than one minor is permissible. No course can be used to satisfy an upper-division requirement for both a major and a minor unless the Committee on Educational Policy has granted an exception. In cases of overlapping upper-division requirements, an appropriate upper-division course can be used as a substitute.</p> <p>10.4.5 Individual major. Students may undertake an individual major by presenting a proposal⁴ and a petition for declaration of individual major to the appropriate agency of their college. The proposal must be supported and the petition signed by the student's adviser and all members of a three-person faculty committee that will supervise the individual major. The committee must have at least one member with special competence relevant to the major who will serve as chair of the committee. All of the committee members must be continuing⁵ faculty members in fields related to the proposed major. This committee shall supervise the major program and administer the appropriate comprehensive examination or senior thesis. An individual major may not serve as part of a combined major. The name and content of the individual major must be distinct from those of any approved major program or of any possible double or combined major made up of approved major programs. The Registrar shall periodically report to the Committee on Educational Policy on the nature of the individual majors program.</p> <p>10.4.6 Combined major. Students may undertake a combined major by</p>	<p>10.4.4 Minor. A student may becomes eligible for a minor in a discipline by fulfilling the course requirements for the minor established by the sponsoring agency. The minor will involve substantial work in the discipline, and require no fewer than 25 upper-division or graduate credits, unless an exception is granted by the Committee on Educational Policy. A minor may be offered in a subject not offered as a major. The completion of more than one minor is permissible. No course can be used to satisfy an upper division requirement for both a major and a minor unless the Committee on Educational Policy has granted an exception. In cases of overlapping upper division requirements, an appropriate upper division course can be used as a substitute.</p> <p>10.4.5 Individual major. Unchanged.</p> <p>10.4.6 Combined major. Unchanged.</p>
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fulfilling the course requirements for the combined major established by any two existing majors. A combined major option must be established by the sponsoring agencies and approved by the Committee on Educational Policy before it can be chosen by the student. The combinations of programs, requirements for the major, etc., are agreed upon by both sponsoring agencies and must be approved by the Committee on Educational Policy before that particular combination major exists as an option for students. Both agencies must agree on how honors are to be awarded to students. Student diplomas will be annotated so as to make clear the difference between combined majors and double majors. A combined major will be indicated by the form "with a single combined major in A. and B." A double major will be indicated by the form "with a major in A. and a major in B."

[From above: 10.4.3 Double major.

A student becomes eligible for a double major by fulfilling the requirements of both declared majors. No course can be used to satisfy upper-division requirements for two majors unless the Committee on Educational Policy has granted an exception. In cases of overlapping upper-division requirements, an appropriate upper-division course can be used as a substitute.]

10.4.3.7 ~~Double~~ Additional majors or minors.

A student becomes eligible for a ~~double~~ **additional majors or minors** by fulfilling the requirements of ~~both~~ **the** declared majors **and minors**. ~~No course can be~~ **Courses** used to satisfy upper-division ~~the~~ requirements for ~~two~~ **each** majors ~~unless the Committee on Educational Policy has granted an exception~~ **must include a minimum of 40 upper-division credits (as per 10.4.3) not used to satisfy the requirements 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 the requirements 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. In cases of overlapping upper-division requirements, an appropriate upper-division course can be used as a substitute. Departments may approve substitution of appropriate upper-division courses to satisfy the requirements of this section.**

<p>10.4.7 Passing Work in Major. Students must complete all requirements for the major with grade P, C (2.0) or better.</p>	<p><u>Lower-division courses may always simultaneously satisfy the requirements of different majors and/or minors.</u></p> <p>10.4.7-8 8 Passing work in Major <u>or Minor</u>. Students must complete all requirements for the major <u>or minor</u> with grade P, C (2.0) or better.</p>
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Respectfully submitted;

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