

Degree Requirements

Baccalaureate Degree Requirements

A student must complete the following requirements in order to earn a bachelor of arts or science degree. Requirements are described in detail in the latter part of this section. Most students will accumulate a combination of units in the major, General Education and non-designated electives in order to fulfill the requirements of a baccalaureate degree.

1. A minimum of 124 semester units (most B.S. degree programs require 128 or more units)
2. An academic major
3. General Education
4. Specific Test/Course/Skill Requirements
 - a. English Placement Test (unless exempt)
 - b. English Composition (English 1 or equivalent)
 - c. Intermediate Algebra (Math 4)
 - d. United States History (History 11 or 12)
 - e. United States and California Constitution (Political Science 2 or 101)
 - f. Upper Division Writing Skills
5. A minimum of 30 residence units, of which 24 must be upper division and 12 in the major.
6. A minimum of 40 upper division units.
7. Minimum of a "C" average for units in major, all CSU, Fresno units and total units.
8. Completion of an application and fee payment for graduation by appropriate deadline.

Dual (Concurrent) Major Requirements

An undergraduate student may desire to complete the requirements for more than one major at the time of completion of the baccalaureate degree (i.e., graduate with a dual major). When the student applies for graduation, he or she must designate which major is to be the primary degree major for purposes of graduation. Minimum requirements and exceptions for dual majors are as follows:

- Dual B.A. majors must include 24 units, 12 of which must be upper division;
- Dual B.S. majors must include 36 units, 18 of which must be upper division;
- Courses in General Education may be used to fulfill secondary major requirements;
- Units may be double-counted for both majors above 24 mutually exclusive units (12 upper division) in B.A. programs and 36 units (18 upper division) in B.S. programs.

Special Major for the Bachelor of Arts Degree

The special major for a bachelor of arts degree provides an opportunity for students to engage in an individualized course of study leading to a degree when legitimate academic and professional goals are not accommodated by standard degree majors. The special major consists of correlated studies in two or more fields. It is not intended as a means of bypassing normal graduation requirements or a means by which students may graduate who fail to complete the degree major in which they are enrolled.

The special major must be approved in the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, with approval based upon a case-by-case justification. The candidate must have one full

year of academic work (at least 30 units) still to be completed to meet minimum degree requirements. The minimum requirement for the special major is an approved program of 30 units at least 24 units of which must be upper division work. Units applied to satisfy general education requirements may not be counted. Also, a maximum of six (6) independent study units may be included in the special major program. Any exception to this limit must be approved in writing by the Vice President for Academic Affairs upon written recommendation by the special major adviser prior to registration for the additional units.



A student requesting a special major must obtain application forms from the Office of Advising and Orientation. On these forms the student must: 1) Prepare a statement giving his or her reasons for desiring a special major in terms of academic and professional goals and why these goals cannot be met through a standard major; 2) Develop a specific list of courses which would, in his or her opinion, lead to the academic and professional goals stated above; 3) Secure the signed approval from the Office of Advising and Orientation, as well as from special major adviser and department chairmen in the areas from which the special major courses are drawn. The student must submit the foregoing material to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs for final approval.

Specific Test/Course/Skill Requirements

English Placement Test. Unless exempt, all entering freshmen and lower division transfers who enroll with fewer than 56 semester units must complete the CSU English Placement Test (EPT). See *Academic Placement-English Placement Test* for exceptions.

English Requirement. English 1, Composition, or its equivalent is a university graduation requirement which should be completed before the end of the fourth semester of university attendance. (A grade of "C" is the minimum acceptable grade to satisfy this requirement.) Students who are exceptionally well-prepared in composition may elect to satisfy the requirement by the successful challenge of English 1 through Credit by Examination or by successful performance in either the *English Equivalence Examination* or the *Advanced Placement Test*. The English Placement Test does not substitute for English 1. See *English Placement Test* for test scores prerequisite to enrollment in English 1.