

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 45 units at least 30 units of which must be upper-division work. Units applied to 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 chair 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. Upon graduation, *Bachelor of Arts, Special Major* and the title of the special major will be entered upon the student's transcript and diploma.

## Residence Requirements

The residence requirement for the baccalaureate degree specifies that 30 units shall be earned in residence at the campus granting the degree. Twenty-four of these units shall be earned in upper-division courses and 12 of the units shall be in the major. The residence requirement for graduate students is 21 units.

Extension credit and credit by evaluation, including credit by examination, may not be used to fulfill the above described requirements.

## Specific Course/Skill Requirements

**English Requirement.** English 1, Composition, or its equivalent is a university graduation requirement that 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 or by successful performance in the *English Equivalence Examination (EEE)*. The English Placement Test does not substitute for English 1. See *English Placement Test* for test scores prerequisite to enrollment in English 1.

### U.S. History and Government Requirements.

Undergraduate and second baccalaureate degree candidates must demonstrate competence with respect to the Constitution of the United States, American history, and in the principles of state and local government of California in order to graduate. This may be done by passing examinations or by completing History 11 or 12 and Political Science 2 or 101. (In cases in which a student has completed the federal government

**“In college, taking the first step to seek help is the most difficult step of all.”**

— *Sophomore,  
Education*

requirement, Political Science 102 [1 unit] will fulfill the state and local government requirement.) (See *History Department — American History Requirement, and Political Science Department — United States Constitution Requirement, and General Education — CORE*.)

**Upper Division Writing Skills (UDWS) Requirement.** All undergraduate and second baccalaureate degree candidates, must demonstrate competency in writing skills at the upper division (junior-senior) level as a requirement for graduation. Students may meet this requirement in either of two ways after completion of 56 units:

1. Passing the Upper Division Writing Examination (UDWE) composed of both an essay and an objective component. This examination is given several times each year, including once during the first two weeks of each semester. Students are permitted to take the examination a maximum of two times. Upon successful completion of the UDWE, an undergraduate student may request one unit of credit (Engl 100W), which may or may not be posted to the student's transcript the same semester in which the UDWE was passed. For details, call the Office of Testing Services, (209) 294-2457.
2. Obtaining a *C*, *CR* or higher grade in an approved upper-division course at CSU, Fresno or another CSU campus. Approved courses can be identified in the catalog and *Schedule of Courses* by the letter *W* (e.g., Engl 160W, IS 105W). English Composition (Engl 1) is a prerequisite to any *W* course.

It is imperative that the UDWS requirement be met within one semester after completing 56 units, or no later than the second semester at CSU, Fresno for students transferring with 56 or more units. Also, the UDWS requirement cannot be fulfilled by a class or test taken outside of the California State University System.

Graduate students should consult *Graduate Studies and Research* regarding the graduate-level writing proficiency requirement.

**Note.** Passing the UDWE does not preclude a student from taking a *W* course if it is required in the major, e.g., Hist 100W.

**Remedial Courses.** Each student admitted to a CSU campus is expected to possess basic competence in the English language and mathematical computation. Students admitted who cannot demonstrate such basic competence are required to remedy this deficiency. Such remedial courses are designated by the letter *R* following the course number, except English A. Credits earned in remedial courses cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements. (See *Developmental Learning Resource Center*.)