

# 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 accumulate a combination of units in the major, General Education, and nondesignated electives in order to fulfill the requirements of a baccalaureate degree. These requirements are fulfilled when a student successfully completes:

1. a minimum of 124 semester units (most B.S. degree programs require 128 or more units)
2. an academic major
3. General Education requirements
4. specific course/skill requirements:
  - a. English Composition (English 1 or equivalent)
  - b. United States History (History 11 or 12)
  - c. United States and California Constitution (Political Science 2 or 101)
  - d. Upper-division writing skills
5. a minimum of 30 residence units, of which 24 must be upper-division, 12 in the major, and 9 in General Education
6. a minimum of 40 upper-division units
7. a minimum of a C average for units in the major, all California State University, Fresno units, and total units

To receive the degree, a student files an application for graduation obtained from the Office of Evaluations after paying the graduation fee at the cashier's window in the Joyal Administration Building by one of the published deadlines.

## Dual (Concurrent) Major Requirements

Undergraduate students 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 students apply for graduation, they must designate which is the primary degree major. Minimum requirements and exceptions for dual majors are as follows:



- Dual B.A. majors must include a minimum of 24 units exclusive of the other major, 12 of which must be upper-division.
- Dual B.S. majors must include a minimum of 36 units exclusive of the other major, 18 of which must be upper-division.
- 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.
- Courses in General Education may be used to fulfill secondary major requirements.
- Students may not earn a special major as a dual major.

## 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. Also, students may not earn a special major as

a dual major, and postbaccalaureate students are not eligible to earn a special major at the baccalaureate level.

The special major must be approved in the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, with approval based upon a case-by-case justification. Candidates 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 6 independent study units may be included in the special major program. Any exception to this limit must be approved in writing by the provost and vice president for academic affairs upon written recommendation by the special major adviser prior to registration for the additional units.

Students requesting a special major must obtain application forms from the Office of Advising Services. On these forms students must:

1. prepare a statement giving their 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 their opinions, lead to the stated academic and professional goals
3. secure the signed approval from the Office of Advising Services, as well as from the special major adviser and department chair in the areas from which the special major courses are drawn

Students must submit the foregoing material to the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for final approval.

## 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, 12 of the units