

A minimum of a *C* average (2.0 GPA) for units in the major, all California State University, Fresno units, and total units is required for a baccalaureate degree. (See *Grade Symbols and Grade Points, Degree Requirements.*) Master's degree students have a higher minimum GPA requirement. (See *Graduate Studies — Advancement to Candidacy, Grade Requirements.*)

**Major.** Set of required courses from one or more departments designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to pursue a specific career and/or advanced study. A student must earn a 2.0 grade point average in all courses required for the major, except "additional requirements," in order to graduate. Some majors are subject to more stringent grading requirements. (Minimum Title 5 requirements: *B.A. degree* — 24 units of which 12 must be upper division exclusive of General Education; *B.S. degree* — 36 units of which 18 must be upper division exclusive of General Education.)

**Minor.** Set of required courses from one or more departments or programs but less comprehensive than the major. Courses fulfilling requirements for a minor usually may be counted toward General Education. Refer to the description of the specific minor for exceptions. Courses in a major cannot be applied toward a minor unless designated as "additional requirements."

A minor may be earned only at the time a student earns the first baccalaureate degree.

**Option.** Set of required courses within a major in addition to the major core courses that emphasizes one important aspect of that school, department, or program.

#### **Prerequisite Requirements.**

(1) Course or courses that must be completed before a higher level course may be taken. (2) Courses outside the major department that must be completed before admission to the major.

**Recommended Courses.** Courses that the department faculty believe would be beneficial for a student to take but are not mandated or required as part of the major.

**Units.** A credit or semester unit represents one hour of class work per week for one semester. It is assumed that two hours of preparation are required for each hour in class. Three hours of laboratory per week are the equivalent of one unit. In a limited number of courses two hours of laboratory per week are the equivalent of one unit. Also, two hours of activity or studio (art, dance, music, physical education) are normally equivalent to one unit of credit. One quarter unit of credit is equivalent to two-thirds of a semester unit.

Units registered and units allowed are terms that appear on the student's transcript and evaluation. Units registered is the column used for GPA calculation. The units allowed column is used to determine units completed toward the total unit requirement for the degree.

#### **Choice of Catalog**

**Election of Regulations.** An undergraduate student must fulfill degree requirements from one catalog, not the most favorable requirements from two or more catalogs. As long as a student maintains "continuous attendance,"\* he or she may elect, for purposes of fulfilling graduation requirements, one of the following:

1. The catalog in effect at the time a student begins attending a California public community college or California State University campus.
2. The catalog in effect at the time a student begins attending California State University, Fresno.
3. The catalog in effect at the time the student graduates from California State University, Fresno.

Continuous attendance is defined as being officially enrolled at least one semester or two quarters during a calendar year regardless of the number of units completed. Also, a student is considered to have been in attendance even if he or she registered and totally withdrew from school during that semester/quarter as long as the official transcript so indicates. Once a student establishes catalog rights in the CSU or California Community College system, he or she may attend any accredited college or university for no more than two years and maintain catalog rights. A planned educational

leave maintains a student's continuous attendance status. (See *Planned Educational Leave of Absence.*)

Any break in attendance of one calendar year or longer ends a student's continuous attendance status. This results in the loss of catalog rights to all catalog choices prior to the break in attendance. It should be noted that enrollment in Summer Session, Open University, and extension and correspondence courses does not establish catalog rights nor contribute toward continuous attendance to maintain catalog rights. A loss of catalog rights could result in one or more additional semesters to meet new catalog requirements especially in the major and/or General Education. Once a student graduates, however, all rights to the original catalog are terminated.

Graduate (master's) students fulfill requirements based on an approved advancement to candidacy petition. These requirements are based on departmental and university requirements as published in the current catalog at the time of advancement. Continuous enrollment is likewise defined differently for master's students. (See *Graduate Studies.*)

#### **Transcript Evaluation**

Undergraduate transfer students are generally evaluated under the degree requirements listed in the *General Catalog* at the time they enter California State University, Fresno. Transfer students with a declared major entering with 40 or more semester units should receive an advanced standing evaluation during their first semester assuming all transcripts are on file.

Upon completion of approximately 90 semester units, students *should request* a senior evaluation from the Evaluations Office. This evaluation shows all requirements completed and any remaining baccalaureate degree requirements. Only one senior evaluation is made for each student. A degree evaluation is completed during the semester a student files for graduation. (See *Graduation and Commencement.*)

\* A student may not begin "continuous attendance" while still enrolled in high school.