

# 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 120 semester units for the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degree programs
2. an academic major
3. General Education requirements
4. specific course/skill requirements:
  - a. English Composition (English 5A-B, 10, 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.

## Double (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 double major). When students apply for graduation, they must designate which is the primary degree major. Minimum requirements and exceptions for double majors are as follows:

- Double B.A. majors must include a minimum of 24 units exclusive of the other major, 12 of which must be upper-division.
- Double 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 double major.

**One Degree with Multiple Majors and/or Minors.** Two or more majors leading to the same baccalaureate degree (B.A. or B.S.) do not constitute separate baccalaureate degrees. Only one degree and one diploma will be awarded. Only one application fee is required for one degree, regardless of the number of majors and minors. The student transcript will reflect a maximum of three majors and two minors for each baccalaureate degree.

**Graduating with Multiple Degrees.** A student may be awarded more than one baccalaureate degree (such as a B.A. and B.S.) at the same time provided that requirements of all degree programs have been completed. Students who complete two or more different baccalaureate degrees may apply for all degrees in a single degree period by submitting separate applications simultaneously. A fee is required for each application submitted. Students who concurrently complete the requirements for two or more baccalaureate degrees will be acknowledged on separate diplomas for each degree earned.

*Note:* Students may not pursue a baccalaureate and master's degree concurrently.

## Special Major for the Bachelor's Degree

The special major for a bachelor's degree (either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science) 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 double 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 total unit requirement for a special major is 120 units. 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 Office of 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 do the following:

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