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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	December 5, 2014
FROM	Gordon Myers, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Program/Credential Language (SCUS 14-48)		

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Myers', is written over the 'RE:' field of the memorandum.

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of December 4, 2014, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion

That Senate approve the changes to the Credential Definitions language in the Academic Calendar effective Fall 2015.

Undergraduate Credential Definitions

Academic Calendar Language

Rationale

The following revisions are proposed to the overall description of undergraduate programs. These changes update many aspects of the description and eliminate confusing concepts such as “extended minor degree” and “the first four levels.” Advising text is also eliminated (“students are encouraged to sample...”). The structuring of requirements at the university, faculty and subject levels is clearly spelled out.

Current	Proposed
<p>Undergraduate Programs</p> <p>Simon Fraser University offers three main types of undergraduate programs: honours programs leading to an honours degree, general programs leading to a general degree, and an extended minor degree. Most departments offer all these types of programs.</p> <p>To be granted a degree, a student must satisfy certain requirements which ensure a depth of study and a coherent combination of courses. These requirements, called a degree program, are expressed in terms of the number of units in lower and upper division courses to be completed in and outside the subject(s) of concentration. Depending on the extent of concentration in a subject area, a degree program may offer an honours program, a major program, a minor program, or certain combinations.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to sample a wide range of courses before focusing on a particular area of concentration, but normally must commit themselves to their area(s) before entering the second half of the degree program. Students should be aware of any prerequisite courses for their programs that they may need to undertake in the first four levels. (See the Definitions section following.)</p>	<p>Undergraduate Programs</p> <p>Simon Fraser University offers three main types of undergraduate programs and credentials: degree programs leading to a bachelor's degree, diploma programs leading to a post baccalaureate diploma, and certificate programs. Degree programs may be honours programs leading to an honours degree or general programs leading to a general degree.</p> <p>To be granted a credential, a student must satisfy certain requirements which ensure a depth of study and a coherent combination of courses. These requirements are expressed in terms of the number of units in lower and upper division courses to be completed in and outside the subject(s) of study. In general, requirements for a credential are specified at three levels: university-wide requirements as described in this section, faculty-wide requirements as set by the faculty offering the credential, and subject requirements as set by the department, school or program defining the area of study. Students must satisfy the requirements of all three levels.</p>

Rationale

Degree Requirements

The degree requirements section is modified to address the following goals.

1. Spelling out the required 44 upper division credit hours for general degrees.
2. Appropriate reference to both the WQB Curriculum and the performance standard represented by graduation GPAs requirements.
3. Elimination of advising language.

Current	Proposed
<p data-bbox="87 411 321 443">Degree Requirements</p> <p data-bbox="87 472 743 590">All students admitted to the University as of fall 2006 must meet writing, quantitative, and breadth requirements in completing their undergraduate degree. See Writing, Quantitative, and Breadth Requirements.</p> <p data-bbox="87 594 743 867">Students should refer carefully to overall requirements of the faculties for degree requirements, as the requirements for a specific degree must be fulfilled. Some departments require specific prerequisite courses for entry to some upper division courses, and some faculties require completion of a minimum number of upper division courses to fulfil degree conditions. Some faculties require completion of a minimum number of units within the faculty to qualify for a degree. If in doubt, seek advice from Academic Advising and Success.</p>	<p data-bbox="773 411 1006 443">Degree Requirements</p> <p data-bbox="773 472 1403 806">All students admitted to the University as of fall 2006 must meet writing, quantitative, and breadth requirements in completing their undergraduate degree. All students admitted to bachelor's degree programs at the University must satisfy certain university-wide requirements as well as faculty and subject requirements. All bachelor's degree programs for a first bachelor's degree require successful completion of a minimum of 120 units including at least 44 upper division units. Degree requirements must be met at an acceptable performance standard.</p> <p data-bbox="773 810 1419 1052">Typically, faculties structure degree programs in terms of individual honours, major or minor programs for one or more subjects. An honours degree requires the completion of at least one honours or joint honours program, while a general degree normally requires the completion of at least one major or joint major, or two minor programs. Honours degrees are distinguished by the depth and intensity of study in the honours subject.</p>

Rationale

Definition of Honours, Major and Minor and Joint Programs

This section proposes a simplified structure for the definition of honours, major, minor and joint programs, with a concise minimum standard for each (eliminating ambiguous and inaccurate ranges).

Current	Proposed
<p>Honours Program</p> <p>An honours degree is comprised of a minimum of 120 units in a specified honours program including approximately 48-52 units in specified upper division courses in the honours subject or field. Different honours programs have varying unit requirements in the lower division courses. (See faculty and departmental requirements.)</p> <p>Joint Honours Program</p> <p>A joint honours degree requires completion of at least 132 units including the completion of a specific joint honours program, which would normally consist of a total of at least 50 units in upper division courses completed in two or more disciplines, as specified. Different joint honours programs have varying unit requirements in the lower division courses. (See faculty and departmental requirements.)</p> <p>Major Program</p> <p>A general degree requires at least 120 units and, normally, completion of a major program. A major program consists of approximately 28 to 30 units in upper division courses as specified in the major subject or field. Varying unit requirements are needed in the lower division courses for different major programs. (See faculty and departmental requirements. With special approval, two minors may be substituted for a major in the bachelor of education degree. The bachelor of general studies degree has broad requirements.)</p> <p>Joint Major Program</p> <p>A general degree may be obtained by completing 120 units including the completion of a joint major program. The specific joint major requires at least 30 units in upper division courses completed in two or more disciplines, as specified. Unit requirements in the lower division courses vary for different joint major programs. (See faculty and departmental requirements.)</p> <p><i>[Text on Double Minor Programs moved – see next section.]</i></p> <p>Minor Program</p> <p>A minor requires completion of at least 14 to 18 upper division units as specified in the subject. To qualify for a specific minor, at least seven units of upper division credit used toward the minor must have been completed in Simon Fraser University courses. A minor program also requires meeting any stipulated lower division requirements and may be used toward the requirements of a degree program.</p> <p>Extended Minor Program</p> <p>This program consists of the lower division requirements for</p>	<p>Honours, Major and Minor Programs</p> <p>Programs of study in an individual subject are generally structured as one of three program types, depending on the intensity of upper division study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honours programs require completion of a minimum of 60 upper division units including a minimum of 48 units in the honours subject or field. • Major programs require completion of a minimum of 44 upper division units including a minimum of 28 units in the major subject or field. • Minor programs require completion of a minimum of 14 units of upper division work in the minor subject or field. <p>Each type of program also requires lower division work, with varying unit requirements in the lower division courses. (See faculty and departmental requirements.)</p> <p>In some faculties a type of minor program known as an extended minor is offered, consisting of the upper division requirements of a minor and the lower division requirements of a major.</p> <p>Joint Programs</p> <p>Programs defined to include two or more subject areas are known as joint programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint honours programs require a minimum of 50 units of specified upper division work in the joint honours subjects. • Joint major programs require a minimum of 30 units of specified upper division work in the joint major subjects.

a major, and the upper division requirements for a minor. A student must have their program approved by the extended minor program advisor.

Rationale

Definition of Major-Minor, Double Major and Other Program Combinations

This section proposes a dramatically simplified description of program combinations, deleting much redundant and advising text.

Current	Proposed
<p>Double Major Program A general degree may include completion of two major programs. The student must complete the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the lower division requirements for each of the major subjects selected • at least 28 units of upper division courses as specified in each of the two subjects in which the majors are to be claimed • any other requirements of the particular departments concerned • the requirements of the faculty in which the student will receive the degree <p>This permits study of two majors within a single faculty or across faculties. The bachelor's degree awarded will be determined according to the faculty in which all requirements have been met or, if the requirements of more than one faculty have been met, then from the faculty that the student selects. (See Major-Minor Program following.)</p> <p>Major – Minor Program A general degree may include the completion of a major program and a minor program. The student must complete at least 28 units of upper division courses as specified in the major subject, and at least 14 to 18 units of upper division courses as specified in the minor subject. The same upper division course may not be used for formal credit in both the major and the minor. The student must complete the lower division requirements for the major subject selected, all other requirements of the major department, the lower and upper division requirements for the minor selected, and the requirements of the faculty in which the student will receive the degree. This permits the undertaking of a major and a minor within a single faculty or across faculties.</p> <p>Double Major and Major – Minor Programs Credit Value of Courses In order to give sufficient weight to both majors in a double major program, the student may not apply the same upper division course for formal credit in both majors. Similarly, a student in a major-minor program may not use the same upper division course for formal credit in both the major and the minor. Also, a student undertaking a program consisting of more than one minor may not use the same upper division courses for credit toward more than one minor. Where one course fulfils the content requirements of two related areas, additional replacement units in upper division work satisfactory to one of the departments or program committees must be completed to fulfil the overall credit requirements for the double major or major-minor program. For lower division requirements, one course could fulfil both content and credit requirements as a prerequisite, but no course can carry double credit toward the degree total. In a number of possible combinations in the bachelor of arts or bachelor of general studies degree, certain constraints exist on the use of both lower and upper division courses. In some instances, therefore, a student seeking a double major or a major-minor involving subjects in more than one faculty may need more than 120 units to fulfil the requirements of the general degree.</p>	<p>Major-Minor, Double Major and Other Combinations It is generally possible to combine two or more programs of study within a single degree. The following combinations are common; all require completion of a minimum of 44 upper division units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major-minor programs, consisting of the major requirements of one subject and the minor requirements of another subject within the framework of a single degree. • Double-major programs, consisting of the major requirements of each of two subjects within a single degree. • Double-minor programs, consisting of the minor requirements of each of two subjects within a single degree. <p>Combined programs require that the minimum upper division unit requirements of each program be separately satisfied. Even if a course is common to the content requirements of two programs, it may only be counted towards the upper division unit requirements of one of the programs. In such cases, course substitutions towards upper division credit of the other program(s) must be approved by the relevant program chair(s). Programs may be combined within a faculty or across faculties. The overall degree requirements of at least one faculty must be met. In the event that the requirements of more than one faculty are met, a single degree will be awarded by the faculty selected by the student. The requirements of each program as well as faculty and university degree requirements must be met. A combined program may require more than 120 units of total course work.</p>

Rationale

Double and Dual Degree Programs

This section provides definitions of double and dual degrees with flexible definitions that remove overspecification, yet remain consistent with existing standards. Double degree requirements are defined based on equivalence to a combination of a first bachelor's degree and a second bachelor's degree, except that the two degrees are taken concurrently.

Current	Proposed
<p>Double Degree Program</p> <p>A double degree program is comprised of 197-201 units, 87 of which are lower division requirements while 110-114 are upper division requirements. Once all requirements are completed, students will graduate with two undergraduate degrees.</p>	<p>Double Degree Program</p> <p>A double degree program is a program allowing students to work towards two SFU degrees concurrently. Program requirements are based on the requirements of a first bachelor's degree plus those of a second bachelor's degree. A minimum of 164 units is required including at least 88 units of upper division work.</p> <p>Dual Degree Program</p> <p>A dual degree program is a program leading to bachelor's degrees at two different institutions. SFU requirements must include at least those of a second bachelor's degree. A minimum of 44 upper division units must be completed at SFU.</p>

Rationale

Second Bachelor's Degrees

The description of second bachelor's degree programs is modified to allow faculties to define specific second degree programs (as in Education), within an overall framework of requirement for 44 units of upper division work.

Current	Proposed
<p>Second Bachelor's Degrees A student who already holds a bachelor's degree(s) from an approved institution may complete a second or subsequent bachelor's degree at the University, subject to the following conditions and regulations. The basic requirement for a further bachelor's degree is the completion of the upper division requirements associated with a first bachelor's degree (except for the BEd degree, see Bachelor of Education as a Second Degree). Prior completion of lower division prerequisites may also be required or may be waived at the discretion of the department or program in which the further degree is being sought. A student may not enrol in a further bachelor's degree program in a subject in which she/he already holds a degree. A student who has a minor (or equivalent) in a particular subject may enrol in a further degree with a major or honours program in that subject. Credit earned towards a previous degree or diploma may not be used toward a further bachelor's degree. Transfer credit may be given for additional courses completed beyond the previous credential but prior to Simon Fraser University admission. However, the normal upper division residency requirement applies: at least two thirds of the upper division course work for the degree must be completed at Simon Fraser University. Some faculties may have additional residency requirements. Faculties may limit inter-faculty transfer for second degree students. Students admitted to second degrees are deemed to have met all of the breadth requirements (designated and undesignated), three units of the Q requirements and the lower division W requirement. (The remaining W and Q courses must be three units each. The W course must be upper division.) For more information, see Writing, Quantitative, and Breadth Requirements.</p>	<p>Second Bachelor's Degrees A student who already holds a bachelor's degree(s) from an approved institution may complete a second or subsequent bachelor's degree at the University. A minimum of 44 units of upper division work is required. Faculties may offer specific second bachelor's degree programs. Otherwise, the basic requirement for a further bachelor's degree is the completion of the upper division requirements associated with a first bachelor's degree. Completion of lower division prerequisites may also be required or may be waived at the discretion of the department or program in which the further degree is being sought. A student may not enrol in a further bachelor's degree program in a subject in which she/he already holds a degree. A student who has a minor (or equivalent) in a particular subject may enrol in a further degree with a major or honours program in that subject. Credit earned towards a previous degree or diploma may not be used toward a further bachelor's degree. Transfer credit may be given for additional courses completed beyond the previous credential but prior to Simon Fraser University admission. However, the normal upper division residency requirement applies: at least two thirds of the upper division course work for the degree must be completed at Simon Fraser University. Some faculties may have additional residency requirements. Faculties may limit inter-faculty transfer for second degree students. Students admitted to second degrees are exempt from all of the breadth requirements (designated and undesignated), three units of the Q requirements and the lower division W requirement. (The remaining W and Q courses must be a minimum of three units each. The W course must be upper division in the student's subject or field.) For more information, see Writing, Quantitative, and Breadth Requirements.</p>

Wednesday, December 10, 2014