2-05-2013

To: Mike Bailey, Chair Curriculum Council
    Bill Bogley, Director of Academic Programs, Assessment and Accreditation
    Cc Rebecca Mathern, Registrar

Re: Request for thoughts from the Curriculum Council

The Academic Regulations Committee is reviewing an issue related to Double Majors. As we deliberate, we invite the Curriculum Council to weigh-in with thoughts or concerns.

At Issue: There are instances of students being able to complete the requirements for two majors within their 180 hour program, but their options are limited by current structures. Is this a problem that we should address?

- AR 27 (see below) deals with the process for obtaining subsequent credentials including second majors, but does not address concurrent credentials such as double majors.
- The OSU Catalog defines the double major and finds that double majors pursued concurrently “must be obtained within the same college.” Reasons for the same college expectation seem to center on advising issues (which college would guide students and conduct the graduation audit?) and the flow of funds to colleges via declared majors (who would “own” the student who sought majors in different colleges?).
- At the same time, the reorganization of colleges into new clusters, and the emerging thought that students should/could benefit from self-designed combinations of majors suggests that the following question be explored: “Does OSU wish to allow double majors in different colleges?

Is this a topic that the Curriculum Council would wish to discuss? Please feel free to let me know if I can provide any additional information. Rebecca Mathern is also available to serve as a liaison from the Academic Regulations Committee to discuss this topic. Thanks for your consideration.

All the best,
Joanne Sorte
Chair Academic Regulations Committee

Please see AR 27 and the narrative from the General Catalog, attached.
Note that the Academic Regulations do not speak to concurrently earned majors.

AR 27. Subsequent Credentials: Minors, Certificates, Options, and Majors

a. Subsequent Minors and Certificates: A student who has received a previous baccalaureate degree from either OSU or another accredited university or college may be granted a subsequent minor or certificate. The student must:
   1. Complete current requirements for minor or certificate and receive the dean’s approval;
   2. Achieve a minimum of 2.0 OSU cumulative grade-point average on work taken for subsequent credential;
   3. Academic residence: minimum 15 credits in residence.

b. Subsequent Options and Majors: A student who has received a previous baccalaureate degree from OSU may be granted a subsequent option or major credential:
   1. Complete current requirements for option or major and receive dean’s approval;
   2. Achieve a minimum of 2.0 OSU cumulative grade-point average on work taken for subsequent credential;
   3. Academic residence: minimum 15 credits in residence.

c. Additional credits necessary for subsequent credentials may be taken prior to or subsequent to the granting of a previous baccalaureate degree.

Note that the OSU Catalog states that double majors are obtained within one college.

Double (or Multiple) Majors
A student may earn two or more majors within a single degree program (a particular combination of degree, college, and campus, e.g. BA degree from the College of Liberal Arts on the Corvallis campus). It is sometimes possible to complete two or more majors within the minimum number of credits required for a degree, but usually the student must complete additional credits to complete requirements for all of their majors. For this reason, double majors are obtained within the same college. The advisor must complete one graduation audit that includes all of the majors. The student’s academic record will list one degree with two or more majors, e.g. Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Chemistry. The student receives one diploma. Double majors may be obtained concurrently with the completion of the degree, or in some cases may be earned as a credential subsequent to completion of the degree. (See Academic Regulation 27.)