

## Revisions to the Second Bachelor's Degree Policy for Concurrent Degrees

Approved by the Faculty Senate, 3/2/15

**Approved Revision to Second Bachelor's Degree Policy** (changes in bold red font will appear in the 2015-16 General Catalog):

*Candidates for a second bachelor's degree at The University of Arizona must earn no fewer than 30 units in addition to the units required for the first degree, and must meet all requirements for the second degree. The additional units may be completed concurrently with those applying to the first degree; however, at least 30 unique units of University Credit (units earned at the UA not used for the first degree) must be completed for the second degree. If the degrees are completed concurrently, the 30 additional units ~~are added to the degree with the higher unit requirement~~ **of University Credit are not necessary. The student may earn concurrent (simultaneous) degrees with a minimum of 120 units and the completion of all major, minor, and General Education requirements, as long as both degrees are awarded on the same date.***

*Students may apply for a simultaneous ~~or sequential~~ second degree only if the degree title and major differ from the first. Students pursuing another academic program that would lead to the same degree title as the primary program must declare that program as an additional major, not a second degree.*

### Rationale for the Revision:

- Currently, all second UA bachelor's degrees require no fewer than 30 units in addition to the units required for the first degree (for a total of 150 units), even if all major, minor, and General Education requirements for both degrees are met with fewer units. Many students must take elective units to earn two UA degrees.
- The 30 additional units have been a deterrent for dual/concurrent degrees, even for students whose career goals could be achieved with two different baccalaureate degrees.
- Per current policy, students simultaneously pursuing a second program with the same degree title as the primary program (e.g., B.S. in Plant Sciences and B.S. in Microbiology) must declare that program as a second major, not a second degree, when both programs are completed/awarded on the same date.
- The faculty's philosophy in 2006 (when the current policy was approved) was that: (a) the University's primary responsibility was to serve students enrolled in their first baccalaureate program, and (b) one degree was sufficient for a student to pursue a graduate program, even if the graduate program required more undergraduate course work in preparation.
- Since 2006, course availability has increased and the faculty recognizes that there are valid reasons for students to pursue two baccalaureate degrees instead of (or prior to) enrolling in a graduate program.
- Most UA peers require 30 additional University Credits for a sequential second degree; however, more universities (including ASU and NAU) waive the additional University Credit requirement for concurrent degrees—as long as both are awarded on the same date.

### Effective Term:

Summer/Fall 2015 for all incoming and enrolled students, regardless of Catalog year