

## Changes to Minor Standards Proposal

### Current Catalog Language:

A minor, a secondary field of study, is required for certain majors. Students who complete an associate degree at a Connecticut Community College may be eligible to have the minor requirement waived if the associate degree is in a major different than their current major, is not in general or liberal studies, and contains at least 18 credits of appropriately related coursework that is not being applied toward the CCSU major. Students who meet these conditions may apply to the Dean of their school for a waiver of the minor requirement.

No minor is required for students completing a double major. Although minor requirements and exceptions to that requirement are specifically noted in the individual program listing, students should consult with their advisors regarding the requirement of a minor.

### Proposed Changes:

A minor, a secondary field of study, is required for certain majors. Students who complete an associate degree **from a regionally accredited institution of higher education** may be eligible to have the minor requirement waived if the associate degree is in a major different than their current major, is not in general or liberal studies, and contains at least 18 credits of appropriately related coursework that **are** not being applied toward the CCSU major. Students who meet these conditions may apply to the Dean of their school for a waiver of the minor requirement.

No minor is required for students completing a double major. **Up to four (4.0) credits may apply simultaneously to both the major and the minor where curricular requirements overlap or where a course substitution has been approved, unless prohibited by the department or program. For minors larger than 18 credits or for second minors, additional simultaneous application of credits may be permitted by the department or program provided there are fourteen (14) unique credits for the minor.** Although minor requirements and exceptions to that requirement are specifically noted in the individual program listing, students should consult with their advisors regarding the requirement of a minor.

### Rationale:

- **Fairness:** Regional accreditation ensures the quality and rigor of degrees awarded. There is no justification to give certain privileges simply because it is an associate degree from CT.
- **Recruitment:** While many of our transfer students do come predominantly from CT, we are expanding the regions from which we are able to attract students. A key part of these efforts is the special tuition rate for out-of-state students from New England, New York, and New Jersey. This will encourage students with associate degrees from these regions to transfer to us for their bachelor's degrees.
- **Consistency with Sister Schools:** The other CSUs (and UConn) allow some form of double counting between major and minor requirements. See appendix below.

- **Allowance with NECHE:** The requirement of a minor is not an accreditation standard evaluated by NECHE. NECHE only mandates that each undergraduate program includes a general education requirement and a major or concentration requirement. As such, it is completely at our discretion whether to require a minor and to dictate the terms of any minor requirements.

<https://www.neche.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Standards-for-Accreditation-2021.pdf>

- **Practicality for Students:** Some departments house minors open to their majors that have an overlapping course requirement. Currently, most students need to replace this in their minor with another course, because they cannot double count. Programs that did not want their students to double count could still prohibit this if they wished. (See Appendix II)
- **Uniformity:** There are a few minors that already double count credits. For example, the Cross-Cultural Analysis Minor can apply 3 credits to the Anthropology major. For some of our larger minors (24 credits), we already allow 2 courses to double count. The Archaeology minor allows students to apply 6 credits to the Anthropology major. Likewise, the Science minor allows 8 credits to double count with related-science majors. This would open such opportunities to more minors, while still allowing individual programs to prohibit it.

#### Appendix I

**SCSU:** "Courses for the minor may overlap with a major or another minor requirement; however, only **one course in the minor** may also fulfill a major or another minor requirement. "

**ECSU:** "A minor consists of an approved planned program of study of at least 15 credits. In such cases where majors, minors and liberal arts core curriculum share courses, a minimum of **nine credits must be unique** to each minor."

**WCSU:** "While not required for graduation, a minor provides an option for the student who wants an academic focus in addition to a major. Details on required courses are specified for each minor by the academic department; please reference the specific department information in the catalog. A student may not declare a minor that is the same as his/her major (e.g., a student majoring in History may not also declare a History minor). Courses in the minor are **not necessarily additional** degree credits; general education, major and free elective credits may be applied unless the catalog states otherwise."

**UConn:** "The **same course** may be used to meet both major and minor requirements unless prohibited by the department or program offering the minor as stated in the University catalog."

#### Appendix II – Selective Possible Pairings if Approved by Programs

Minor	Major	Potential Double-Counted Required Courses
African Studies	International Studies	IS 225
African American Studies	Philosophy	PHIL 360
Archaeology Minor	Anthropology	ANTH 150
Art History	Art	ART 110
Astrobiology Minor	Biology, Biomolecular, Chemistry	BIO 121; BMS 102, 103; CHEM 161, 162
Astronomy	Physics	PHYS 125

Business	Economics	ECON 200
Cinema Studies	Communications	COMM 227, 228 or 220
Cross-Cultural Analysis	Anthropology	ANTH 170
Gerontology	Psychological Science or Sociology	PSY 364 or SOC 340
Public History	History	HIST 302
Social Justice	Philosophy	PHIL 244
Statistics Minor	Computer Science	CS 151
Women, Gender, and Sexuality	PSY, COMM, HIST, SOC, ANTH	Electives