

Current:

## Options vs. ~~Minors~~

1. University policy does not allow students to minor in their major, even if the major includes different fields of study. To help students focus their studies, some programs have created informal undergraduate tracks/concentrations/focus areas or formal undergraduate options for students to complete when completing a disciplinary or interdisciplinary minor is not a feasible alternative. An OPTION is formal, University approved "transcripted" ~~track/concentration/focus area~~ within a specific major.
- ~~2. Programs that currently offer options are Anthropology, Applied and Computational Mathematical Sciences, Biology, Communication, Comparative Literature, Dance, Drama, English, Linguistics, Mathematics, Music, Political Science, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Business Administration, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering (pending), Human-Centered Design and Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Atmospheric Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences, Environmental Science and Resource Management, and Informatics.~~
- ~~3. Options must have at least a 50% overlap with the general program requirements.~~
4. Programs offering options may limit the number of options for which a student may enroll within that program.
5. Each option offered within a degree program must be distinct.
- ~~6. Options do not need HECB approval, programs only need to submit a 1503 for internal University approval.~~
- ~~7. Here is a [sample transcript](#) that includes a Degree, Major, Option, and Minor~~

Revised by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards on March 30, 2012

Proposed:

## Options

An option is a formal, University-approved concentration within a major that appears on a student's transcript. Informal tracks, concentrations, or pathways in a major that do not appear on student transcripts are not subject to the following policies.

1. A program may offer a standard major with options that a student may choose. (For example, a student can earn a BA in Anthropology or a BA in Anthropology with an option in Archaeological Sciences.) Alternatively, a program may require every student to choose one of several options. (For example, students in the Applied and Computational Mathematical Sciences program must choose an option when they declare the major.)
2. Each option within a major, including the standard major, must share at least a 50% common core.
3. The number of total credits for an option should differ by no more than 10 credits from any other option in the major, including the standard major.
4. Open and minimum admission requirement majors may have competitive options as long as a non-competitive alternative is available.
5. Programs offering options may limit the number of options for which a student may enroll within that program.
6. Each option offered within a degree program must be distinct.
7. Here is a **sample transcript** that includes a Degree, Major, Option, and Minor

Revised by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards on TBA