Current rules and guidelines for the creation of new majors regarding content

1. *Majors* typically consist of 50-90 credits.

2. The credits to complete a major, along with general education requirements and admission requirements, should not require students to complete more than 180 credits for their degree.

3. Majors may be proposed with three types of admission (cf. admission page for more on admission policies – will be hyperlink online):
   a. *Open Admission*: Matriculated students in good academic standing are admitted at any time.
   b. *Selective /Minimum Requirements Admission*: Requires students to complete satisfactorily a set of prerequisite courses with a minimum GPA. All students who meet the minimum requirements are admitted.
   c. *Competitive Admission*: Students must complete all minimum requirements to apply and must then compete with the entire applicant pool for a limited number of spaces.

4. *Majors* should include at least 20 credits of core courses, which all students must fulfill. These courses may come from groups, but the educational outcomes of all courses in those groups should be comparable. The intention is to provide a substantive foundation that all students in the major share.

5. *Majors* should require at least 20 credits of upper division (300-and 400-level courses).

6. Proposed catalog copy for a major may explicitly list electives for inclusion in the catalog. Alternatively, proposed catalog copy may indicate that electives may be taken from a list that is managed by the department. Such lists should be included with the initial proposal documentation, with an indication that they will be departmentally managed.

7. *Majors and degrees* that are competitive or admit students directly as freshmen should include a continuation policy that is no more restrictive than the requirements to graduate from the major.

FCAS Policies applicable to new majors
Program-Based Grade Requirements
   A. Cumulative Grade Graduation Requirement: (UW requires 2.0 cumulative gpa for graduation)
      1. Programs are permitted to have 2.0 cumulative GPA requirement for courses within the major.

2. Programs may request cumulative GPA in the range of 2.0 to 2.5 for courses in the major and/or all UW courses. The programs must document and provide justification for the request. Provided adequate academic justification is provided, FCAS will approve such requests.

3. Programs requesting cumulative GPA requirements greater than 2.5 for courses in the major and/or all UW courses must provide strong justification for the request. In general, except in exceptional cases and with very strong academic justification, FCAS will not approve these requests.

B. Minimum Grade Graduation Requirement in Individual Courses: (UW requires 0.7 in each course)
1. Programs may request that students achieve a minimum grade in each course of a subset of the courses required for a major, every course for a major, and/or all UW courses in the range of 0.8 to 2.0. The programs must document and provide justification for the request. Provided adequate academic justification is provided, FCAS will approve such requests.

2. Programs requesting a minimum grade in each course of a subset of the courses required for a major, every course for the major, and/or all UW courses exceeding 2.0 must provide strong documented justification for the request. In general, FCAS will not approve these requests.

FCAS "rules of thumb" based reviews of previous proposals

- All majors should have a "home" department where students have access to a program advisor. This applies to interdepartmental and intercollege majors as well as majors offered by one department or program.
- All majors should have a lead faculty coordinator, who is responsible for convening faculty to discuss all aspects of the major from the inclusion of courses from other departments, changing program requirements, appeals from students, etc.
- All majors should have core of faculty who make decisions concerning the major, to be transmitted by the chair of the program to the appropriate department(s) and/or college(s) and, if necessary, the Registrar and/or FCAS.
- Program requirements should generally be achievable in two years residence at the university, especially if they are upper division requirements. Courses that either not taught frequently enough or do not have adequate spaces to be consistently taken by students should be required courses.
- Programs that will require students to tailor their general education requirements in particular ways in order to satisfy admission requirements should spell these requirements

out in their catalog statements and, if necessary, create general education requirements specific to the program.

- Programs should not with justification present barriers to admission to students with disabilities.

Northwest Commission Policies on curriculum

From glossary: **Bachelor of Arts** (B.A.)**, Bachelor of Science** (B.S.). An undergraduate degree normally representing about four years (120 semester or 180 quarter units) of college study, or its equivalent in depth and quality of learning experience. The B.A. degree implies a more liberal education orientation and the B.S. degree implies a more applied educational orientation.