

# Undergraduate Degree and Graduation Information

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## Undergraduate Majors, Minors, and Certificates

Majors and minors form a core component of a bachelor's degree. The North Dakota University System (NDUS) State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) Policy and Procedure 409 (<https://ndus.edu/sbhe-overview/sbhe-policies/400-heading-policies/>) outlines the minimum credit requirements for both. Students must adhere to the specific requirements in effect when they formally declare their major or minor with the university. Detailed curriculum information for each major and minor can be found in the undergraduate curriculum (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/curriculum/undergraduate/>) section of the university catalog. Certificates are a stand-alone credential and can be completed on their own or in conjunction with a baccalaureate's degree or

### Majors

**Majors:** An undergraduate major represents a structured set of courses within a specific academic area, known as a curriculum, that a student formally commits to studying by declaring it. Each major requires a minimum of 32 semester credits. Furthermore, departments are responsible for ensuring that each major includes at least 15 credits that are distinct from any other major offered at the University during the development process. While most majors lead to a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree, some specialized degree options exist with specific majors. A comprehensive list of all NDSU degree types can be found in the Degree Types (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/degree-and-graduation/>) section of the university catalog.

**Second or Multiple Majors:** Students have the option to pursue a second or multiple majors while earning a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree. In such cases, one major will be designated as the primary major, and the college associated with this primary major will award the degree. To successfully complete multiple majors, students must fulfill all curriculum requirements for each declared major, in addition to meeting all other undergraduate degree requirements. *Important Note:* If a student declares majors with different degree types (e.g., a BA and a BS), the requirements for earning a second degree will apply. Please refer to the Second Degree section below for more information.

After a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts degree has been awarded, students can still complete additional majors or minors within that specific degree type. These subsequent majors or minors will be noted as a milestone on the student's academic record after the term in which all requirements are satisfied.

**Dual Major:** A dual major distinguishes itself from a second or multiple majors by formally integrating two majors into a single, cohesive curriculum. This combined structure typically results in fewer overall required courses compared to pursuing each major separately. Departments seeking to establish a dual major must obtain formal approval through the university's governance process. Students can declare a dual major through the standard major change procedure. Officially approved dual majors are clearly listed in the university catalog's undergraduate curriculum (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/curriculum/undergraduate/>) section.

### Minors

**Minor:** Minors are focused programs of study within an academic discipline that undergraduates can choose to declare to enrich their bachelor's degree. Completing a minor requires a minimum of 16 credits, with at least eight of those credits earned through NDSU resident coursework. It's important to note that minors are not independent credentials; they are always awarded in conjunction with a bachelor's degree. A list of eligible minors is available in the curriculum (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/curriculum/undergraduate/>) section of the catalog.

Students can also complete additional minors after they have already earned their degree, and these will be noted on their academic record as a milestone following the semester of completion.

## Undergraduate Certificates

**Undergraduate Certificate:** Undergraduate certificate programs offer focused study in a specific area, requiring a minimum of 9 credits. These certificates can be pursued concurrently with a degree program or as a separate, stand-alone program. Details regarding the curriculum for each certificate can be found in the undergraduate curriculum (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/curriculum/undergraduate/>) section of the catalog. Individuals interested in enrolling in an undergraduate certificate program must apply to the University through the Office of Admission.

## Second Degree

At NDSU, students can pursue a second bachelor's degree type under these conditions:

- Each baccalaureate degree earned must be of a different type (for example, a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts, or a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering). Students cannot earn two degrees of the same type. However, students can complete the requirements for multiple majors within a single degree type, if offered (refer to the Second or Multiple Majors above).
- All curriculum requirements for the second degree must be successfully completed.