

CCAS Policy on Unique Course Requirements for Majors and Minors

Background

In Fall 2015, the Curriculum Guidelines Task Force was charged with leading the Senate through a discussion, and ultimate approval of, guidelines for future use by the Senate Curriculum Committee when evaluating new program applications. The first sub-charge concerned “a College policy on ‘double-dipping’ of courses between different academic programs (the Higher Learning Commission requires that universities have such a policy). The Task Force investigated and discussed the issue during our spring 2016 meetings.

Preliminaries & Rationale

The following things are important in any discussion of double-dipping:

- the intellectual rigor of majors and minors
- the ability of students to explore different fields to broaden knowledge via minors as well as gain depth of knowledge in the major(s)

We also acknowledge that interdisciplinary programs by their nature must double-dip.

From the responses a query on the AJCU listserv regarding double-dipping policies at fellow Jesuit universities, it is clear that policies, where they exist, vary. For example:

- Georgetown does not allow any double-dipping except for core classes.
- Boston College requires that 15 of a minor’s 18 credits and 27 of a major’s credits be unique.
- Seattle allows 3 courses to be double-dipped between a major and a minor (15 credit hours).

We discussed the majors and minors most likely to be affected by a policy stricter than our current unofficial policy that one course must be unique, and determined that given the new Magis Core Curriculum, students should still have enough room in their schedules for minors and double majors.

Policy Recommendation

We recommend that the following policy which, while less strict than Georgetown’s and Boston College’s policies, is more strict than Seattle’s policy:

Two courses of a minor must be unique (in a major/minor combination)

And

Three courses must be unique (in a double major)