

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD0921S
Date of Senate Approval 02/04/2021

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 6 (CHEM): **Remove Declaration of Major Requirements for the BS and BA majors in Chemistry**

Effective Date: Fall 2021

1. Delete: On page 96, the entry for declaring a major in Chemistry:

Declaration of Major in Chemistry

Students wishing to declare a major in chemistry must complete the following prior to declaring:

1. CHEM 145 and 231 with a grade of C or higher,
2. MATH 191, and
3. be enrolled in, or have completed CHEM 232.

Students considering a major in chemistry should speak with a faculty member in the department. They are also encouraged to complete an Intent to Declare a Chemistry Major form, available from the Chair of Chemistry. Once this form is submitted, an advisor from the Chemistry department will be assigned to the student, facilitating student participation in departmental functions.

Impact Statement: There will be no impact on resource needs, or on other departments and programs resulting from removing the major declaration requirements. There will only be a positive impact on students, as students will not have to wait to be able to officially declare a major in chemistry and will be able to be assigned an advisor in their major of interest much earlier in their academic career.

Rationale: There are no benefits to having prescriptive major declaration requirements that causes a student to wait until their second year at UNC Asheville to declare their major of interest as a B.S. major in Chemistry or as a B.A. major in Chemistry, as the coursework completion requirements for the major are clearly described in the catalog and easily accessible in the advising resources available to all students (i.e., GradPlan). The current streamlined electronic major declaration process also enables a student who declares early but then changes their interest area to easily redeclare their major in a different discipline, but does not allow for the "Intent to Declare" opportunity described in the requirements. This change removes the cumbersome paper process that does not result in assignment of an academic advisor.

In addition, there are great benefits to a student to be able to declare their major whenever they feel ready and then to be directly assigned an academic advisor in their major of interest. By removing this barrier to major declaration, earlier academic advising relationships between an interested chemistry major and a chemistry faculty member can be developed, which can contribute to a student's personal, academic and career development; greater satisfaction in their college experience; and retention. The benefit includes early-career students beginning their transition from high-school to college and transfer students who may have a high number of credit hours necessitating major declaration, but not always the specific courses of the deleted major declaration requirements.