THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number   SD5221S
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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 45:   **Remove/reduce requirements to declare a major**

Effective Date: Fall 2021

1.   **Delete:** On pages 70-71, under **Departmental Admission Requirements:**

All students interested in majoring in Art should obtain a copy of the Department of Art Guidelines from the department office. The Guidelines should be used in conjunction with this catalog. Declaring a major in Art requires the student to complete a Declaration of Major form that must be signed by the department chair.

   A.   Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
      1.   Before declaring a B.A. in Art (Studio Art), students must have credit for ART 122 and 133.
      2.   Before declaring a B.A. in Art History, students must have credit for ARTH 201 or 202.

   B.   Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.)
      A student must apply for entrance to the B.F.A. major in Art. The application process is outlined in the Department of Art Guidelines. Before applying for the B.F.A., the student must have credit for the following courses: ART 122, 133, 144, and 12 additional hours of art courses at the 200 level or above. Students must also have a minimum GPA of 3.00 in ART and ARTH courses.

   Add: On page 71, in place of deleted entry:

All students interested in majoring in Art should obtain a copy of the Department of Art Guidelines from the department office, which should be used in conjunction with the requirements listed in this catalog.
      There are no prerequisites to declaring a B.A. major in Art (Studio Art) or Art History; however, students must apply for entrance to the B.F.A. major in Art. The application process is outlined in the Department of Art Guidelines.
      Before applying for the B.F.A., the student must have credit for the following courses: ART 122, 133, 144, and 12 additional hours of art courses at the 200 level or above. Students must also have a minimum GPA of 3.00 in ART and ARTH courses.

2.   **Delete:** On page 115, the requirements for declaring a major in Drama:

Declaration of Major in Drama
      Students who wish to declare a major in Drama should consult the Drama Department chair for detailed information on fulfilling the major competency requirements. Prior to declaring, all students must complete at least 5 hours from DRAM 111, 113, 121, 122 or 144 with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better.

3.   **Revise:** On page 227, the requirements for declaring a major in Mass Communication:

> ### Declaration of Major
> Declaring a major in Mass Communication requires the student to have completed MCOM 104, and have completed or be enrolled in MCOM 201 or VMP 205

4.   **Revise:** On page 244, the requirements for declaring a major in Music:

> ### Admission to the Major in Music
> Students wishing admittance to the B.A., B.F.A. or B.S. degree program in music must 1) demonstrate piano competency through the MUSC 101 level; 2) successfully complete MUSC 201 and MUSC 231; and 3) pass an instrumental or vocal audition. placing them into MUSC 291. Audition guidelines are available from the Music Department or at http://music.unca.edu.

5.   **Revise:** On page 253, the requirements for declaring a major in New Media:

> ### Declaration of Major in New Media
> A student must have an overall GPA of 2.0 prior to declaring a major in New Media.

6.   **Revise:** On page 277, the requirements for declaring a major in Psychology:

> ### Declaration of Major in Psychology
> A major in Psychology may be formally declared after a student has completed PSYC 100 and PSYC 201 with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in these courses.
>
> I.   completed the Liberal Arts Core Mathematics requirement with a grade of C or higher;
> II.   completed PSYC 100, PSYC 201 and one other 200-level PSYC course with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in these courses; and
> III. met individually with the chair of the Psychology Department to review departmental expectations for majors.

7.   **Revise:** On page 290, the requirements for declaring a major in Sociology and a major in Anthropology:

> ### Declaration of Major in Sociology
> A student must complete SOC 100 with a grade of C or better prior to declaring a major in Sociology. , and have at least 8 hours of course work in Sociology, with at least 4 of the hours completed at UNC Asheville.
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> ### Declaration of Major in Anthropology
> A student must complete ANTH 100 with a grade of C or better prior to declaring a major in Anthropology. , and have at least 8 hours of course work in Anthropology, with at least 4 of the hours completed at UNC Asheville.

Impact: Because we are already connecting students with their intended majors, the departments are being assigned the advising load of these pending majors. Reducing the requirements to declare will let students declare sooner so the advising load of the department can be more accurately reflected by the number of declared majors. Additionally, accurate numbers of majors is especially important for conversations regarding resource allocations.

Note: For Art, only the requirements to declare the B.A. degree are being removed. Given the nature of a B.F.A. degree, the requirements to pursue that path will remain in place.

Rationale: Research shows that sense of belonging is a critical factor in student retention. We are proposing to reduce the requirements to declare a major as a means of gaining a sense of belonging sooner in one's academic path. Once a student has decided to declare, allowing them to do so will help the student form a connection with their department and peers more quickly than if that path is impeded. Additionally, as the University works to create a more diverse and inclusive campus for our students, reducing these requirements to declare is an actionable step we can take to help reduce structural barriers on the path to degree. This proposal is supported by the UNCA representatives participating in Gardner Institute's Equity in Retention Academy.

This can also avoid conflicting messaging between various policies. Our catalog requires students to declare a major by the time they reach junior standing (60+ earned hours). Students might reach that criteria and receive outreach to declare their major, have to respond that they are intending a particular major but have not yet fulfilled the department's requirements to declare. The Registrar's Office then needs to continue to monitor and outreach prior to each registration period until the student is able to declare.

Furthermore, declaring a major allows GradPlan (our degree audit software) to accurately reflect the student's degree requirements. This will aid in the course selection process during registration and ultimately reduce time to degree completion.

The concurrence of each department chair was received.