

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 4320S
Date of Senate Approval 04/30/20

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 39: Revise the policy on limiting double majors to the receipt of a
 single degree;
 Remove the Limitation on the number of baccalaureate
 degrees UNC Asheville will award**

Effective Date: Fall 2020

1. Delete: On page 53, the second paragraph under **Major Fields of Concentration:**

A student may major in more than one subject by completing the requirements of each major. A student who concurrently completes the requirements for two majors will receive one degree, according to which major the student considers to be his or her primary field. Double majors will be noted on transcripts. A student wishing two baccalaureate degrees must earn the second degree pursuant to the requirements described in the Second Baccalaureate Degree section of this catalog.

Add: On page 53, in place of deleted entry:

A student may major in at most two subjects by completing the requirements of each major. Students who concurrently complete the requirements of two majors that are designated as the same baccalaureate degree will receive a single degree with two majors. Both majors will be listed on the transcript. Students who concurrently complete the requirements of two majors that are designated as different baccalaureate degrees will receive two degrees. Both degrees will be listed on the transcript. Students may not earn two different degrees in the same content area.

A student wishing to complete the requirements of an additional major or degree may do so after the awarding of the initial degree. Please see the section on Post-Baccalaureate Study for specifics.

2. Delete: On page 57, item I under **Post-Baccalaureate Study:**

1. Second Baccalaureate Degree

The university grants a Second Baccalaureate Degree to students who have already received a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution. The major program must be different from that for which the first baccalaureate degree was awarded. A student's prior coursework is evaluated as transfer credit and the requirements for the Liberal Arts Core are considered fulfilled. UNC Asheville does not award additional baccalaureate degrees after a student has earned two baccalaureate degrees.

Students enrolling for a second degree must complete at least 30 semester hours and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the requirements for a major at UNC Asheville, including prerequisites, correlate courses, and the demonstration of competency required for the major. Students whose initial baccalaureate degree was not earned at UNC Asheville must still have at least 120 total hours to receive a degree. For students whose first degree was earned at UNC Asheville, the 30 hours must be earned after the initial baccalaureate degree is awarded.

Add: On page 57, in place of deleted entry:

1. Additional Baccalaureate Degree

Students who have a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution may earn an additional degree by completing a minimum of 30 semester hours at UNC Asheville, to include at least two-thirds (2/3) of the requirements for a major, any prerequisites and correlate courses not satisfied by previously earned course work, and the demonstration of competency required for the major. The major program area must be different from that for which a previous baccalaureate degree was awarded.

Students whose initial baccalaureate degree was not earned at UNC Asheville will have their prior course work evaluated as transfer credit. They must have a minimum of 120 total hours, including the hours earned at UNC Asheville, to receive a degree. The requirements for the Liberal Arts Core are considered fulfilled for students with a prior degree. For students whose first degree was earned at UNC Asheville, the 30 hours must be earned after the initial baccalaureate degree is awarded.

Impact: There will be no impact for students completing two majors that are designated as the same degree; these students will continue to receive a single degree with both majors listed on their diploma and transcript. Students completing majors that are designated as different degrees will now receive two degrees (and two diplomas) instead of being required to choose the degree they consider to be their primary area of study.

The number of majors a student may concurrently complete is being limited to two, although there is no longer the limitation on the number of degrees UNC Asheville will award. If a student wants to complete another major or degree post-graduation, they may return and follow the requirements for an additional baccalaureate degree. There have been only two students in the past 25 years that have completed three majors concurrently, so this will have minimal impact. Two majors with multiple minors is much more common.

There will be a slight increase in the funds needed to purchase two diplomas for the students completing majors with different degrees. In the previous 10 years, these additional funds would have been less than \$500.

Rationale: Students are often surprised to realize a double major with two different degree designations does not result in the awarding of two degrees and two diplomas. Currently, for example, a student with a major in Jazz and Contemporary Music (B.F.A.) and Economics (B.A.) will have to choose to receive a B.F.A. degree with majors in Jazz and Contemporary Music and Economics, or a B.A. degree with majors in Economics and Jazz and Contemporary Music. It might be more impactful for graduate school applications or employment for this student to have two separate degrees that are aligned with the majors.

A survey of other UNC System schools resulted in the following information. Each of the six schools that responded will award two degrees concurrently, although UNC Pembroke requires students to complete 150 hours for two degrees.

Appalachian State	Two degrees
Fayetteville State	Two degrees
NC State	Two degrees
UNC Charlotte	Two degrees if degrees are different; single degree otherwise
UNC Pembroke	Double major; if completing two degrees, must complete 150 hours
UNC Wilmington	Two degrees if degrees are different; single degree otherwise