

**UNIVERSITY SENATE**  
**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Introduced by: Undergraduate Academic Council

Date: March 5, 2009

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the following text describing policy for admission to and the granting of a second Bachelor's degree be approved by the University Senate.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to Interim President George M. Philip for approval.
3. That the revision take effect for the Fall, 2009 semester.

**Second Bachelor's Degree**

Admission

Only students who possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education may apply for a second Bachelor's degree. Applicants for a second Bachelor's degree must specify the major they wish to complete. Undergraduate Admissions will process the applications and forward them to a designated individual in the department for review when complete. Students who are not admitted to the major for which they have applied will not be admitted to the university. Appeals will be processed by the Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing of the Undergraduate Academic Council. The deadline for applying for fall admission is the preceding May 1<sup>st</sup> and for spring admission is the preceding December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete all requirements for the major to be awarded a second Bachelor's degree. It is expected that the majority of a student's coursework in any given semester will be consistent with requirements in that major. Registration for subsequent semesters will not be allowed if progress in meeting degree requirements cannot be demonstrated. The option of a double major is not

available. Students are not required to and may not elect to complete a minor as part of the program for their second Bachelor's degree unless a requirement of the major. Students are not required to complete the general education requirements, other than the upper-level writing course, in order to be awarded a second Bachelor's degree. Students must satisfy both the University residency requirements and the major residency requirements. Students earning a second Bachelor's degree are not eligible for "Latin" honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude). Requests to change majors must be processed through Undergraduate Admissions. Students who have already been admitted for a second Bachelor's degree will be subject to the rules in place at the time of their admission.

#### Admission to a combined Second Bachelor's/Master's Degree

A student who enters a second bachelor's program and then subsequently applies and gains admission to a combined second bachelor's/master's program will be considered as an undergraduate student for the purposes of tuition, financial aid, and headcount identification until completion of 12 credits of graduate course work or qualified to receive the second bachelor's degree. In the semester in which a student enrolls in the 13<sup>th</sup> credit of graduate coursework, he or she will be considered a graduate student for purposes of tuition, headcount identification, and eligibility for graduate assistantships, fellowships, and loans whether or not the student has completed the bachelor's degree.

#### Rationale

Although it is generally in the interest of a student to pursue a graduate degree after having completed a Bachelor's degree or to take additional coursework at the undergraduate level without undertaking another full set of degree requirements to gain entry to a new profession or to graduate school, there are cases where earning a second Bachelor's degree has particular value to a student. In these rare cases, the university may admit students to a particular major, provided that the major department itself agrees to admit the student. Students who are admitted for a second degree become eligible to apply for financial aid.

The Undergraduate Bulletin does not address these issues. UAC believes that specific policy is needed. Furthermore, the Office of Admissions has specifically requested policy for this group of students as evaluating their applications is very time-consuming.