

Double Major/Minor:

(Policy and some guidelines for Advisors/Advisees)

American Style of Education allows students to do double major. It is a distinctive feature of our system and well recognized abroad.

Though the University does not encourage or discourage a second Major, however, students may choose a second Major to strengthen their skills for the job market and build on to their personal interests. Keeping with the spirit of a liberal arts education, an equally viable consideration would be to take a Minor instead of a second Major.

Students interested in pursuing a second Major must keep in mind that the Pakistani Higher Education Commission (HEC) will only certify the first Major for an undergraduate degree. Hence, your degree will be based on the first Major only. It is important to get degree validation from HEC which is essential for post-graduate studies and employment in Pakistan.

Students should be in constant contact with their advisor, and ensure that the choice of courses is closely audited if taking a second Major. Any deficiency in the degree requirements will be the responsibility of the student. No remedial measures are possible at the time of the final audit. If a student intends to graduate with a second Major or a combination of a Major and a Minor, all requirements must be met from the same catalogue.

With careful and realistic planning, students can do double majors on time. Some benefits and challenges or disadvantages are as under:

Benefits of double major:

Planning for double major/minor is a great way to get full benefit of academic life in university. It gives you an edge over other students by many ways, some are given below:

- You may become more desirable candidate for the employers due to your broader knowledge, insight, skills and experience.
- You may have more time to switch from one major to another and plan for your life.
- Your scope would be wider than other students and will give you more opportunities of higher education abroad. (not in Pakistan because HEC will verify only one/first Major)
- You can apply for scholarships in both fields.
- Your chances of qualifying for research grants could be higher than the candidates with one major.
- You have plan "B" with you for your life pursuits or you may combine both fields of study and can make your own plan accordingly.
- Your professional, social and alumni networking will be larger than the students with one major.

Challenges/Disadvantages:

- Doing major in two fields will surely increase your workload and could cause you stress.
- It will increase your expenditures and it could even delay your degree for one or two semester(s) in order to complete all the requirements. And you could miss the moments of rejoice, festivity and celebrations with your batch fellows.
- Your focus will be on meeting the requirements of each major and you will be ignoring/compromising on other activities at campus which are equally important for holistic development of your personality.
- It will become challenging for you to remain focused. And being scattered between two Majors could be stressful and cause damage to your life plans.

- You will be sacrificing your family relations and miss out other important aspects of your life.
- It could also bring stress to your family, in particular to your parents who bear your educational expenditures.

Some Guidelines for the students interested in Double Major/Minor

Students are advised to:

- **Learn about the degree requirements** along with the requirements of their intended Major/Minor.
- **Explore their career path/life pursuits** and identify their first major.
- **Make their Academic Plans and discuss with their respective Advisor** and Head of their 2nd major in order to avoid any discrepancy and delay in degree.
- **Fulfill the requirements of General Education** within first four semesters/as per their earliest.
- **Always give preference to their first major** and its requirements while registering course(s).
- **Fulfill the requirements of their first major** and register the core course(s) of their first major and then other courses from their second major.
- **Do their Degree Audit during their Junior Year** and plan for remaining requirements of their first major and then plan for their second major.
- **Complete their degree on time with their batch fellows** and not to delay it unnecessarily for their 2nd major and better to plan for Minor so that they may pursue their life goals well on time.
- Go through the supportive materials and roadmaps which are available on FCCU website under Academic Advising.

Feel free to contact me if you have any question or query.

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