

Guidelines for Majors in the College of Arts & Sciences

The following guidelines for majors are recommended by the College of Arts & Sciences. They articulate what the College considers to be appropriate standards for majors.

1. A major in Arts & Sciences should provide a serious introduction to the knowledge and practices of a field of study, including opportunities to participate in some aspect of research.
2. Because a major does not always directly prepare students for graduate or professional study in their major field, departments and programs should clearly explain to their students how they can prepare most effectively for graduate or professional study in that field.
3. Departments and programs define the course of study that most effectively introduces their students to the knowledge and practices of a field of study. The College makes the following general recommendations:
 - a) A major should be well-structured. It should articulate a sequence of learning that moves gradually from introductory to more sophisticated learning experiences, including a capstone experience.
 - b) A major should require at least 24 units of upper level credit.
 - c) A major should require at least 30 units of credit overall.
 - d) To leave enough space for the pursuit of a broad-based liberal arts education, no major should require more than half of the 120 credits that are required for graduating in Arts and Sciences (including prerequisites).
 - e) In departments that house more than one major, proper care ought to be given to the administration of each major (management of course offerings, advising, etc.).

Endorsed by the A&S Curriculum Committee and presented to the faculty of Arts & Sciences at their meeting of October 22, 2010.