The Undergraduate Major and Minor

**Major**

An undergraduate major is a concentrated plan of study within a type of baccalaureate degree. This plan of study achieves depth and breadth of understanding via a group of courses that are typically related to one academic discipline. Each major will have requirements identified by prescribed courses. Additional and supporting courses may be required in the form of college/school core.

Majors at Mercer are a minimum of 27 credit hours which include the program core. They require at least 15 credits at the 300-400 level.

The maximum number of credit hours for the major will vary based on whether the major is disciplinary or interdisciplinary and based on the type of degree awarded. The number of credit hours and the course requirements for a major are defined by each academic department or program offering the major.

Majors can be broadly or narrowly defined depending on how specific the options offered by the department or program. A broad major may allow students to choose an array of electives, or optional classes, while the major with a narrower focus may allow fewer choices in courses.

Entrance to some majors may require the completion of a number of prerequisites, including courses, portfolios, auditions, or other forms of documentation that are not included in the total requirements for the major.

At least 12 credit hours of upper division work in a major must be done in residence.

**Minor**

An undergraduate minor is an academic program that supplements a major. It will likely consist of course work in a single discipline. A minor may be optional. It will require fewer courses than the major and will have requirements identified by prescribed courses. Not all academic departments offer courses of study for minors.

Minors at Mercer are a minimum of 15 credits and do not exceed 24 credits.

Minors require at least 6 credits at the 300-400 level.

Entrance to some minors may require the completion of a number of prerequisites, including courses, portfolios, auditions, or other forms of documentation that are not included in the total requirements for the minor.

At least 6 credit hours of upper division work in a minor must be done in residence.

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