

Academic Definitions

1. Bachelor of Arts

The B.A. degree is conferred for completion of a program with focus on broad and liberal education in the humanities, arts, social sciences, and sciences. Curricula leading to the B.A. emphasize ways of knowing and approaches to understanding consistent with the liberal arts. B.A. requirements typically promote broad preparation within the discipline and among related fields.

2. Bachelor of Science

The B.S. degree is conferred for completion of a program with focus on in-depth education in the sciences, social sciences, or professional fields. Curricula leading to the B.S. emphasize ways of knowing and approaches to understanding consistent with the sciences and/or professional or pre-professional preparation. B.S. requirements typically promote depth of preparation within a discipline and/or related disciplines.

3. Specialized Degrees

Messiah College may offer specialized degrees such as Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) or Bachelor of Science in Engineering (B.S.E.). Such specialized degrees will be treated as Bachelor of Science degrees.

4. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science for Same Discipline

Messiah College allows a department to apply to offer both a B.A. and a B.S. in the same discipline. When this occurs, appropriate distinctions must be made in the required curricula and the new program approved as a new major.

5. Major

A prescribed set of courses and other requirements recommended by the department and approved by the Community of Educators as a valid representation of the area of study. Generally these courses focus on a specific academic discipline; however, there are some interdisciplinary majors which include work from two or three disciplines. Satisfactory completion of this prescribed set of courses leads to a degree in that area of study.

6. Double Major

Students wishing to complete two majors must designate which is their primary major. That major will be the standard by which general education, other requirements and the degree are determined. A student completing double majors receives only one diploma and one degree representative of the primary major indicated. If the required work for both majors is completed by graduation or within one calendar year of the graduation ceremony at which the first major was awarded, both majors are noted on the final transcript.

7. Second Degree

A student will be awarded a second degree if he or she completes both a minimum of 30 credits and the requirements for a second major subsequent to graduation. In that case a second diploma will be granted.

8. Minor

A prescribed set of courses which focuses on a particular academic discipline. The goal is to allow the student to develop some depth of understanding in that discipline. Minors require 18 course credits with a maximum of 28 allowed.

9. Concentration

A prescribed set of courses in a subdiscipline of a major or closely related discipline consisting of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 36 credits. Students may complete the requirements for more than one concentration. The requirements for concentrations will be delineated in the catalog. Concentrations will be included in official counts or lists of Messiah College majors and/or programs.

10. Emphasis

A prescribed set of courses in a subdiscipline of a major or closely related discipline consisting of a minimum of 12 credits of requirements. The requirements will be delineated in the catalog. Emphases will not be included in official counts or lists of Messiah College majors and/or programs.