

Majors

1. Selecting a Major

A student must select a major no later than the second semester of the sophomore year. This is necessary to allow adequate time for meeting graduation requirements in that major.

2. Pre-major status

There are certain programs for which program accreditation or certification of graduates is essential if graduates are to pursue careers in those fields (e.g., nursing, engineering, teacher education, athletic training). If a program is subject to such accrediting or certification requirements, then that program should apply to the Academic Council for internal admission requirements to the program. If additional internal admission requirements to a particular program are approved, then the following conditions apply:

- a. Students initially declaring an intent in the program will be designated by a “pre-major” status with their department.
- b. Internal admission requirements to the program must be clearly delineated and publicized (e.g., in the catalog description of the program).
- c. Internal admission requirements must be such that “first-time, first-year” students who enter Messiah College as “pre-majors” are evaluated before the end of their sophomore year for admission to the particular program. Transfer students (both internal—from another Messiah major—and external—from another institution) must be evaluated by the end of the first semester junior year.

3. Change of Major

a. Policy:

After having declared a major, students who wish to register for another course of study must obtain the signatures of their current advisor, of the department chair in the major field to which they wish acceptance, and their new advisor, who is assigned by the department chair. Changing a major must be done through the Office of the Registrar.

b. Procedure:

- (1) The student obtains the Change of Major Request card from the Office of the Registrar, obtains the signatures of their current advisor, the department chair in which the new major is housed and their new advisor. The student then returns it to the Office of the Registrar.
- (2) The Office of the Registrar makes the change and asks the former advisor to send the student’s advisor file to the new advisor.

- c. Rationale: This policy has been instituted to ensure that students wishing to change majors receive adequate counseling, and to enhance campus communication by having all involved individuals know what major the student is pursuing.

4. Declaring a Double Major

- a. Policy: The student pursuing a double major must determine which major is the primary major and which is the secondary major. The primary major determines which degree will be granted.

- b. In pursuing a double major, no more than one-third of a student's primary major may be used toward the requirements for a secondary major.

5. Individualized Major [Revised 11/12/07, Community of Educators Senate]

Individualized majors are designed for students who have special interests that are not accommodated by any combination of existing majors or minors at the College. Students may develop a proposal for an individualized major that combines various academic resources available to all Messiah College students (including the Philadelphia campus and other external programs). Each proposal must stand on its own as a unique, individual initiative of the proposing student. Students completing an individualized major will graduate with a B.A. degree. The following guidelines apply to all individualized majors.

a. Parameters for the Individualized Major

- a. The individualized major must be between 36 and 72 credit hours chosen from at least two different disciplines offered at Messiah.
- b. Two disciplines will be considered the primary disciplines and the major curriculum can have no fewer than 12 credit hours from each of these disciplines.
- c. At least 18 credit hours must be chosen from courses numbered 300 or higher.
- d. Each individualized major must include a senior-level (400) capstone course. This may be an existing course or an independent study course supervised by one of the faculty advisors.
- e. Each individualized major must include an existing writing intensive course from the primary disciplines from which the individualized major draws upon.
- f. No more than two courses can be taken as an independent or directed study.
- g. The student must meet all the General Education requirements and all other requirements for graduation (e.g., residency requirements, total required credits, etc.). Any proposed overlaps with General Education must be approved by the Associate Dean of General Education and Common Learning and cannot exceed 12 credits.
- h. In order to propose an individualized major, the student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- i. The individualized major may be proposed after the student has completed 30 credit hours. No proposal will be accepted after the student has completed 72 credit hours.

b. Development of the Proposal.

The student will develop a proposal for the major in conjunction with two faculty advisors from the two primary disciplinary areas, with one of these two faculty advisors to serve as the student's primary faculty advisor. The proposal must include the following elements:

- a. A title for the major that does not duplicate the name of any existing majors or minors and clearly captures the nature of the proposed program of study.
- b. An explanation of how the major will enhance the student's personal learning goals and objectives including possible connection with vocational and/or graduate school interests.
- c. Curriculum sheets (similar to those found in the Advising Handbook for existing majors) describing which specific courses will meet the major requirement and which will meet the College's general education requirements.
- d. A semester by semester plan for completing the required courses. Note that any planned independent or directed study courses must be pre-approved.
- e. The proposed courses must fit together logically and demonstrate the coherence, breadth, and depth which is characteristic of a college major. Proposals that simply piece together existing majors and minors are not acceptable.
- f. A statement that clearly explains how each required course satisfies the College's learning objectives for all majors (i.e., CWEO #4) and contributes to achievement of the goals and learning objectives of the proposed major (as articulated in point b).

c. Approval Process.

The primary faculty advisor will convene and chair an ad hoc committee composed of the two faculty advisors, the Registrar, and the Associate Dean of General Education and Common Learning to review the proposal. If approved by this committee, the individualized major proposal will be forwarded to the Department Chairs of the two primary disciplines represented in the proposal for review and approval. Following the approval of the

Chairs, the proposal will be reviewed by the Dean of the School of the primary advisor for final approval. If approved, it will be officially recorded as the student's declared major and a copy of the approved proposal will be sent, for information purposes, to the Dean of the School housing the other primary discipline. In order to assure prompt processing of a completed proposal, the approval process should take no longer than two months during the academic year from the time it is submitted. In the event that a sponsoring faculty advisor's employment ends, the department chair of the respective department will either supervise the completion of the major or appoint another faculty member capable of supervising it to completion.

6. Listing of Majors Available

Accounting	Elementary Education	Mathematics with Secondary Teaching Certification
Adventure Education	Engineering	Music
Art Education	English	Music Education
Art History	English with Secondary Teaching Certification	Nursing
Arts Management	Entrepreneurship	Nutrition and Dietetics
Athletic Training	Environmental Science	Nutrition Science
Biblical and Religious Studies	Environmental Studies	Philosophy
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Family and Consumer Sciences Education	Physics
Biology	French	Politics
Biology with Secondary Teaching Certification	French with K-12 Teaching Certification	Psychology
Biopsychology	German	Psychology
Broadcasting	German with K-12 Teaching Certification	Social Work
Business Administration	Health and Exercise Science	Sociology
Business Information Systems	Health and Physical Education	Spanish
Chemistry	History	Spanish with K-12 Teaching Certification
Chemistry with Secondary Teaching Certification	History with Secondary Social Studies Teaching Certification	Spanish Business
Christian Ministries	Human Development and Family Science	Sport Management
Communication	Human Resource Management	Studio Art
Computer Science	Humanities	Theatre.
Criminal Justice	International Business	
Early Childhood Education	Journalism	
Economics	Marketing	
Economics	Mathematics	

7. Listing of Teacher Education Programs Available

Art
 Biology
 Chemistry
 Early Childhood Education
 Elementary Education
 English
 Environmental Education Available only to students who also complete Biology Certification
 Family and Consumer Sciences Education
 French
 German
 Health and Physical Education
 Mathematics
 Music
 Social Studies
 Spanish
 Special Education Available only to students who also complete Elementary Certification (B.S.)