Proposed Catalog Changes Related to Pursuit of Concurrent Baccalaureate Degrees

A Proposal to the Academic Quality Committee of the University Senate

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Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

August 21, 2012

At the July 11, 2012 meeting of the Council of Academic Deans, it was pointed out that WKU is apparently the only public institution in Kentucky that does not allow students to pursue two baccalaureate degrees concurrently – see Table 1. The CAD agreed that this restriction may prevent students from graduating in a timely fashion – for example, they may choose to pursue a lengthy double major degree rather than earn two degrees consecutively. It also formally appears to restrict students earning concurrent degrees from an academic college and the Honors College. The CAD therefore recommended that the Undergraduate Catalog be changed to permit the pursuit and/or award of two baccalaureate degrees concurrently – see “Proposed Changes” below.

While reviewing these changes, it also occurred to the Office of the Provost that some clarification may be necessary on three other issues:

1. The need (or lack thereof) for an ancillary minor or additional major for the second degree;
2. The fact that some degrees require a GPA in the major that is higher than the 2.0 specified in the current Catalog policy for the award of a second degree; and
3. Do we wish to allow any overlap of courses between the two degrees? In other words, what should “XX” and “YY” be in the suggested language? A student can currently use courses in partial fulfillment of both majors in a double-major degree; should this privilege be extended to second degrees?

Therefore, the Office of the Provost recommends that these matters also be reviewed.
Table 1 – Practices relevant to the Pursuit of Two Concurrent baccalaureate Degrees at Kentucky Public Institutions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Dual Bachelor’s Degree</th>
<th>Dual Majors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>A student is eligible to qualify for additional Bachelor’s degrees in different majors. The student must complete all university, college, and departmental requirements for all degrees. Courses taken towards fulfilling one degree may also count towards fulfilling parallel requirements in another degree, but the student must complete at least 24 additional hours for each degree. The student may elect to receive the degrees simultaneously if college and departmental requirements can be met simultaneously.</td>
<td>An undergraduate student earns a double major when he or she completes all university, college, and departmental requirements in one department—the Primary Major—and all departmental requirements in a second department—the Secondary Major. Students choose which major is their Primary Major. If there is a generic relationship, work in the Primary Major may be applicable to the Secondary Major. The student must indicate the double major to the Registrar and to the student records office in his or her college(s). The student must have an advisor in each major. The student who completes the requirements for a double major receives a degree from the college of his or her Primary Major and has the successful completion of the Secondary Major entered on his or her transcript. A Secondary Major may be completed after the degree for the Primary Major has been awarded. A double major does not result in an additional degree.</td>
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<td>UofL</td>
<td>To be awarded a second bachelor’s degree, students must earn a minimum of thirty (30) additional semester hours in the College. For students pursuing two degrees simultaneously, these thirty (30) hours will be added to the minimum total of semester hours needed for the degree requiring the least number of hours.</td>
<td>Double Majors vs. Dual Degrees: A student pursuing one degree, but two major areas of study, is said to have a “double major”. To complete a double major the student must earn all hours required by the degree program of their first major plus any additional course(s) needed to fulfill only the major supporting requirements of the second major. A student who fulfills all requirements for two complete degree programs, earning no fewer than 150 credit hours is said to be a “double degree candidate” Students who wish to earn two baccalaureate degrees (dual degrees) should refer to the Concurrent Degree policy. Note that associate degrees are not eligible for minors or second/multiple majors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EKU</td>
<td><strong>Concurrent Degrees:</strong> A student may qualify to earn two degrees concurrently (dual degrees) by completing all requirements for both degrees, including major, supporting, and general education requirements. Courses used in one degree program may also be used in the other. The student has the responsibility to file a separate graduation application for each degree being sought. If the two degrees are in the same college, the student must file two applications in the office of the college dean. If they are different colleges, one application must be filed in each dean’s office. Please refer to the &quot;Application for Graduation&quot; section of this catalog for more details. More details on each level is in the catalog; for example a minimum of 150 for dual baccalaureate degrees.</td>
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KSU

A student may pursue two degrees of the same level in a given matriculation period, e.g., two baccalaureate degrees, two associate degrees, or two graduate degrees, when minimum graduation requirements are met with additional coursework for the appropriate degree level. A student may not pursue mixed levels of degrees simultaneously. (Students having earned one degree at any level may subsequently pursue another, either associate or baccalaureate. (See Subsequent Degrees section.) Students must complete all of the requirements in effect at the time the student declares the major in each degree program. While some of the hours earned from one degree may count toward another degree, students must earn at least 15 additional approved semester hours for another associate degree or 30 additional hours for another baccalaureate degree. This translates to a minimum of 75 hours for two associate’s degrees and a minimum of 150 hours for two baccalaureate degrees.

Morehead

A bachelor’s degree and an associate degree may be applied for at the same degree date. However, no more than one bachelor’s and one associate degree will be awarded at the same date. A student may not apply for an AA degree once qualified for the bachelor’s degree. A student may not apply for a Bachelor of University Studies as a second degree.

Murray

**Second Baccalaureate Degree.** Students who have earned or are seeking a baccalaureate degree may earn a second baccalaureate degree in a different major or area. The student must complete a minimum of 32 semester hours in residence at MSU, exclusive of hours taken toward requirements of the first degree, including any specific departmental requirements, prerequisites, and co-requirements. A student completing a new major toward a second degree is not required to complete a new minor. Fifteen semester hours of upper-level courses must be earned in completion of the new area or major. The student may be required to complete additional University Studies courses if they are specifically required for the intended second major or area. Post-baccalaureate transfer work will not be posted to the student’s academic record until their degree is conferred. Only the coursework...
required for the degree will be posted. The second baccalaureate degree candidate must have a GPA of at least 2.00: 1) in all credits present for graduation whether earned at Murray State or elsewhere; 2) in all credits presented for graduation that were completed at Murray State; 3) in the courses for each major, minor, or area; and 4) in the courses taken at Murray State for each major, minor, or area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NKU</th>
<th>Second Bachelor’s Degree</th>
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<td>A student who wishes to receive two bachelor’s degrees may meet the requirements for them concurrently or consecutively.</td>
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<td>1. In order to receive two bachelor’s degrees on the same date, a student must:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Complete requirements for both degrees.</td>
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<td>b. Complete both degrees based on the same catalog. See the Catalog of Record section for more information.</td>
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<td>c. Earn a minimum of 30 semester credits from NKU* in addition to the hours required for the first degree.</td>
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<td>d. The student must earn a minimum of 60 semester credits from NKU.</td>
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|     | 1. A student may earn two or more majors by completing the requirements for all of the majors and earning a minimum 2.00 GPA on each one. NOTE: Some programs require a GPA higher than a 2.0. |
|     | 2. The degree conferred (for example, B.A., B.S., B.F.A.) will be based upon the student’s first major, as identified by the student. All majors will be indicated on the student’s academic transcript. The “first major” is the one with the earliest submission date. A student who wants his or her “first major” to be the one with the more recent submission date should make this change at the registrar’s office (Lucas Administrative Center 301). |
Proposed Catalog Changes

Catalog, p 35

Current

Concurrent Degrees

B. Concurrent Baccalaureate Degrees

Although students may pursue multiple majors and minors, two baccalaureate degrees may not be earned concurrently at WKU.

Proposed

Concurrent Degrees

B. Concurrent Baccalaureate Degrees

Students may pursue multiple majors and minors, and may, subject to the requirements listed below under “Second Degree Requirements,” pursue two or more baccalaureate degrees concurrently at WKU.
Current

Second Degree Requirements—Students who have successfully earned a degree from WKU or another accredited college or university may earn a second degree at the equivalent level upon completion of the curriculum as approved by the major department and the following minimum requirements. This procedure may not be used to earn degrees concurrently at the same level.

A. Second Associate Degree
- An acceptable associate or higher degree from a fully accredited college or university.
- An approved program including a minimum of fifteen (15) semester hours in a new area of specialization earned after completion of the first degree.
- Twelve (12) semester hours contained in the approved program must be earned at WKU.
- A 2.00 grade average must be earned for all coursework presented in completion of the program; in all coursework completed at WKU; and in all coursework in any field of specialization.

B. Second Baccalaureate Degree
- An acceptable baccalaureate degree from a fully accredited college or university.
- An approved program including a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours earned after completion of the first degree.
- Twenty-four (24) semester hours contained in the approved program must be earned at WKU.
- Fifteen (15) semester hours must be earned in completion of a new major.
- One-half of the new semester hours presented in completion of each major and minor must be earned at the upper division level.
- A 2.00 grade average must be earned for all coursework presented in completion of the program; in all coursework completed at WKU; and in all coursework in each major and minor.

Proposed

Second Degree Requirements—Students who have successfully earned a degree from WKU or another accredited college or university may earn additional degrees at the equivalent level upon completion of the respective curricula, as approved by the major department and following the following minimum requirements. This procedure may not be used to earn degrees concurrently at the same level.

A. Second Associate Degree
- An acceptable associate or higher degree from a fully accredited college or university.
- An approved program including a minimum of fifteen (15) semester hours in a new area of specialization, no more than XX hours of which may have been used toward a previous associate’s degree
- Twelve (12) semester hours contained in the approved program must be earned at WKU.
- A 2.00 grade average must be earned for all coursework presented in completion of the program; in all coursework completed at WKU; and in all coursework in any field of specialization.

B. Second Baccalaureate Degree
- An acceptable baccalaureate degree from a fully accredited college or university.
- An approved program including a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours, no more than YY hours of which may have been used toward a previous baccalaureate degree
- Twenty-four (24) semester hours contained in the approved program must be earned at WKU.
- Fifteen (15) semester hours must be earned in completion of a new major.
- One-half of the new semester hours presented in completion of each major and minor must be earned at the upper division level.
- A 2.00 grade average must be earned for all coursework presented in completion of the program; in all coursework completed at WKU; and in all coursework in each major and minor.