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Degree Completion

Bachelor of Arts Degree

Degrees from the University of Minnesota are granted by the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the faculty of the University school or college, in this case the Morris campus, in which the student is enrolled. Requirements vary among the undergraduate colleges of the University, and students must meet all course, credit, and grade point average requirements of the college in which they are enrolled. The *Morris Catalog* is in effect for nine years; this catalog is in effect from fall 2009 through the end of summer session 2018. However, students may choose to use the catalog in effect their first term and year at UMM (provided it has not expired) or any subsequent catalog.

The General Education requirements completed under any previous catalog, including expired catalogs, may be used to complete the bachelor of arts degree. Permission to use the major requirements from an expired catalog must be obtained from the faculty. If a degree application is on file with accompanying documentation that defines requirements to be completed, reasonable effort will be made to allow students to graduate based on that agreement. All other degree requirements—total credits, residency, GPA calculation, etc.—follow semester standards and policies in place at the time the degree is awarded.

Students in elementary education and secondary education licensure must complete licensure requirements and apply for licensure within seven years from the time of admission to the licensure program.

Students must apply to graduate by the 10th class day of spring semester. There is a commencement ceremony in May of each academic year. Degrees will not be awarded to students with outstanding financial obligations to the University.

Degree Requirements

Requirements for the bachelor of arts (B.A.) degree at the UMM consist of two parts: general education and the major. General education consists of three parts: First-Year Seminar, Skills for the Liberal Arts, and Expanding Perspectives. First-semester freshmen are required to enroll in the First-Year Seminar. All students must meet the requirements listed in Skills for the Liberal Arts and in Expanding Perspectives. The major is a field of specialization with requirements specified by faculty in that discipline or academic area.

The Skills component of general education helps students acquire the intellectual and communication skills needed for successful advanced work. The Expanding Perspectives component helps students gain enough understanding of the principal areas of human endeavor to continue learning and to have a sense of the limits of their knowledge. Work in the major helps students learn in depth and makes them reasonably expert in one area.

In order to lay the foundation for learning early, students are expected to complete a significant part of the Skills component during their first and second years of college. The emphasis is on establishing an intellectual framework for future work—a framework consisting of writing, linguistic reasoning, and artistic skills. Students continue to develop these skills in advanced courses. It should be noted that in most Skills categories, the requirements may also be met through assessment of prior learning, transfer of credit, individual projects, testing, and other means. These methods may be especially helpful in the case of nontraditional students.

The Expanding Perspectives component aims to produce liberally educated people who are able to understand how knowledge is acquired in many different fields. These people usually have broad interests and know where to obtain information on almost any subject. They can solve problems because they bring ideas and techniques from one field to bear on another in innovative ways. In a world of diverse peoples, activities, and value systems, all of which are increasingly interrelated, it is especially important that college graduates have breadth as well as depth in their education and that they expand the horizons of their knowledge.

Expanding Perspectives is divided into two parts. One consists of a traditional core of liberal studies roughly organized around the subjects of history, social sciences, humanities, fine arts, and the biological and physical sciences. The other addresses contemporary themes, which are grouped under the heading, The Global Village. The goal is to expand students' perspectives on human diversity, people and the environment, the international scene, and issues of ethical and civic responsibility. In some cases, students may also satisfy Expanding Perspectives requirements through independent study, transfer credit, internships, study abroad, special examinations, and other means. Students gradually fulfill the Expanding Perspectives requirements throughout their college career.

During the freshman year, students should explore possible majors or fields of specialization, keeping in mind that, in a liberal arts degree program, the major is more of an intellectual "home base" than preparation for a specific occupation.

Transfer students with degrees from other colleges must complete the UMM degree requirements in order to have a major or minor appear on the UMM transcript. Majors and minors do not appear on the transcript unless they are part of a degree program. Licensure graduates from other colleges who wish to add a teaching major or minor do not need to complete the UMM degree program.

Courses taken to complete general education requirements may also apply to requirements in the major. However, all students must complete 60 credits of general education that are not drawn from the discipline of the major.

Specific Provisions

1. General Education Requirements (60 credits)

Goals of the General Education Requirements

- I. **First-Year Seminar:** To teach students to think critically, to assess sources of information, to help students to become aware of the lenses through which they perceive, and to recognize that their perceptions are not universal.
- II. **A. College Writing:** To understand the writing process through invention, organization, drafting, revising, and editing; and develop writers who can write about a range of ideas for a variety of readers.
B. Foreign Language: To develop some fluency in the skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in a second language; and critical insight into another culture.
C. Mathematical/Symbolic Reasoning: To strengthen students' ability to formulate abstractions, construct proofs, and utilize symbols in formal systems.
D. Artistic Performance: To introduce an understanding of the creative process through individual performance, and demonstrate skill in such activities as composition, theater, dance, studio art, and music.
- III. **A. Historical Perspectives:** To increase students' understanding of the past, the complexity of human affairs, the ways in which various forces—economic, cultural, religious, political, scientific—influence efforts to control events, and the ways historians verify and interpret their findings.
B. Human Behavior, Social Processes, and Institutions: To increase students' systematic understanding of themselves as functioning humans, their individual similarities to and differences from others, their awareness of the nature and significance of their conscious experience, and the forces that shape their interpersonal attachments and interactions; or to increase students' understanding of methods of analyzing modern society or some significant legal, political, economic, religious, social, or scientific component of it.
C. Communication, Language, Literature, and Philosophy: To expand students' capacity to understand, analyze, discuss, and evaluate discourse concerning the complexity of the human condition through the study of languages and works of thought and imagination.
D. Fine Arts: To develop students' understanding, analysis, and appreciation of the arts.
E. Physical and Biological Sciences: To increase students' understanding of the structure and dynamics of the physical and biological worlds, and of the scientific method.
F. The Global Village: To increase students' understanding of the growing interdependence among nations, peoples, and the natural world.
 1. **Human Diversity:** To increase students' understanding of individual and group differences (e.g., race, gender, class) and their knowledge of the traditions and values of various groups in the United States.

2. **People and the Environment:** To increase students' understanding of the interrelatedness of human society and the natural world.
3. **International Perspective:** To increase students' systematic understanding of national cultures substantially different from those in which they received their prior schooling.
4. **Ethical and Civic Responsibility:** To broaden and develop students' capacity to question and reflect upon their own and society's values and critical responsibilities, and to understand forces, such as technology, that cause them to modify these views and often mandate creation of new ways to resolve legal, social, and scientific issues.

Provision i

UMM courses designated as appropriate for meeting general education requirements are those which, if passed successfully, demonstrate the student's competency in a given skill or area.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 60 credits of general education coursework outside the discipline of the major and must meet the requirements listed below. The requirements may be met not only through UMM courses, but also by transfer of credit, examinations for proficiency or credit, assessment of prior learning, individual projects, and other means. For details, students should consult with their advisers.

In some instances the specific general education requirements may be met using fewer than 60 UMM credits. If this occurs, then introductory or advanced elective courses from any discipline outside the major—with the exception of courses in elementary or secondary education, wellness and sport science, or accounting courses in management—may be used to fulfill the remaining credits of the 60-credit general education requirement.

Note: The designation following each category below, e.g., FYS for First-Year Seminar, appears at the beginning of the parenthetical information for each course that is appropriate for that category.

I. **The First-Year Seminar (FYS)****—One two-credit course.

II. **Skills for the Liberal Arts**—One to five courses.*

These requirements emphasize the development of the intellectual skills, the communication skills, and the framework for learning needed for successful advanced work. Because new students need this foundation early, they are expected to complete many of these requirements during their first and second years.

A. College Writing (CW)—One course.*

B. Foreign Language (FL)—Proficiency in a single language other than English at the level equivalent to the first full year of college language study. This requirement can be met in any one of the following ways:

- Successfully completing a beginning language II course
- Achieving an appropriate score on a placement exam
- Passing a special examination, such as AP or CLEP, or

- For non-native speakers of English, successfully petitioning the Scholastic Committee for an exemption.

Placement tests are given by language disciplines to determine the level of proficiency of a student with prior coursework. Students who plan to complete courses in the same language that they studied in high school must take the placement examination and abide by the placement recommendation. If, after an initial exposure to the recommended course, the placement seems inappropriate, they may follow the recommendation of their language instructor as to the proper entry course.

C. Mathematical/Symbolic Reasoning (M/SR)—One course.*

D. Artistic Performance (ArtP)—One course.

III. Expanding Perspectives—Eight courses of at least two credits each.

A. Historical Perspectives (Hist)—One course.

B. Human Behavior, Social Processes, and Institutions (SS)—One course.

C. Communication, Language, Literature, and Philosophy (Hum)—One course.

D. Fine Arts (FA)—One course.

E. Physical and Biological Sciences (Sci—without lab; Sci-L—with lab)—Two courses, at least one with lab.

F. The Global Village—Two courses, one from each of two areas.

1. **Human Diversity (HDiv)**

2. **People and the Environment (Envt)**

3. **International Perspective (IP)****

4. **Ethical and Civic Responsibility (E/CR)**

* *This requirement may be fulfilled through exemption.*

** *Students who do not successfully complete FYS should contact the Scholastic Committee Office (320-589-6011) for information on completing the requirement.*

*** *International students should contact the Scholastic Committee Office for an exemption.*

Provisions ii through iv

Provision ii—Goals will be used to match courses to general education requirements (see below).

Provision iii—Only courses of two or more credits will satisfy an Expanding Perspectives requirement.

Provision iv—A course can satisfy only one of the general education categories.

Each major can provide students with a statement about how a student majoring in that area will formally acquire computing and writing skills. Students should contact their faculty adviser for current information.

2. Major or Area of Concentration

The major at UMM is defined as an intensive and coherent program of study reflecting the structure of one or more fields of knowledge. The major complements the essential skills and the broad base of knowledge provided by general education.

The purpose of the major is to ensure that each student pursues a particular field of knowledge in depth, investigates advanced theories and schools of thought, and becomes competent in using the language and methods of inquiry of the field. It is through such concentrated study that a student begins to master a body of knowledge and comes to understand the nature of expertise in the chosen field, including both its power and its limitations.

Students complete a major by fulfilling the requirements as specified elsewhere in this catalog. Some students may choose instead to complete an area of concentration, which is an individualized, often interdisciplinary, group of courses that meets the requirement of study in depth of a specific field of knowledge. (Students who wish to complete an area of concentration must have the program approved by appropriate faculty advisers, division chairs, and the vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean. A copy of the approved program must be filed with the Office of the Registrar. Detailed procedures and forms are available from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean or online at www.morris.umn.edu/services/acad_affairs/aavarious.html.)

Transfer students with degrees from other colleges must complete UMM degree requirements in order to have a major appear on the UMM transcript. Majors do not appear on the transcript unless they are part of a degree program. Licensure graduates from other colleges who wish to add a teaching major do not need to complete the UMM degree program. A signature from the Division of Education on the licensure application form, along with a transcript of the courses completed, is sent to the Minnesota Department of Education.

3. Minor or Area of Emphasis

The minor shares the essential characteristics of the major but differs from it quantitatively. It indicates a special interest and expertise beyond general education and provides sufficient skills and knowledge of the field to form a basis for further study. The requirements for minors are listed in this catalog under the appropriate academic discipline.

Students may choose instead to complete an area of emphasis, a self-designed minor, following the same procedures used to define an area of concentration.

A minor is not required for graduation.

Transfer students with degrees from other colleges must complete the UMM degree requirements in order to have a minor appear on the UMM transcript. Minors do not appear on the transcript unless they are part of a degree program.

4. Minimum Required Credits

(120 credits)

A student can fulfill the course requirements for graduation in most programs within the 120-credit minimum, but some combinations of general education courses, major, and teacher education licensure programs may require more than 120 credits. The 120 credits required must include a minimum of 60 credits of general education outside the discipline of the major.

No major or program may require students to take more than 40 of the 120 credits required for graduation in any one discipline.

Any course that carries credit in one University of Minnesota college will carry credit in all other University colleges, at least as an elective. Some courses that carry University credit may not count toward college or program degree requirements, or may, if a student changes programs, exceed the credit limits from the areas identified in the following paragraph and thus not count toward the degree.

No more than 8 credits in Music Ensembles (Mus 1300 through Mus 1340); no more than 4 credits in WSS 12xx skills courses; no more than 4 credits in Varsity Athletics (WSS 1401 through WSS 1412); and no more than 4 credits in Psychology Field Experience (Psy 4896) may be applied to the 120-credit degree requirement. The use of the grade of D in the major may be restricted by the discipline.

5. Quality of Work

The cumulative GPA required for graduation is 2.00. A minimum GPA of 2.00 (or higher if indicated by the discipline) is required in the major or area of concentration and in the minor or area of emphasis in order to graduate. Both the cumulative GPA and the major/minor GPA include all, and only, University of Minnesota coursework.

6. Residency

Students must earn at least 30 semester credits from the University. Of the last 30 credits earned before graduation, at least 15 must be awarded by UMM. Credits earned through University of Minnesota Continuing Education classes are considered residence credits.