

Secondary Majors and SMFA Dual-Degree Students

Proposal from EPC, 28 November 2018

EPC proposes allowing a student in the dual-degree program, earning a BA or BS from A&S and a BFA from SMFA, to have only a secondary major within the BA or BS program, as if the BFA degree were tantamount to a primary major.

This proposal comes from the STS program and has also been approved by the chairs of Education and Environmental Studies (each of which also has a secondary major). The SMFA faculty has approved it as well. Because the change affects language in the *Bulletin*, it needs a vote of the A&S faculty.

Proposed new *Bulletin* language (p. 54), with changes highlighted:

Students in the combined degree BFA & BA/BS program will be in full-time residence for 10 semesters; will complete a minimum of 85 semester hours in A&S; and will meet the foundation, distribution, and concentration requirements required for the BA and BS degrees in the College of Liberal Arts. *Students in this program may have a secondary major or co-major as their only major for the BA or BS degree.* Students may double-count

Rationale: The proposed change applies only to students in the dual-degree program between A&S (in the strict sense) and SMFA, not to BFA-only students (who don't have A&S majors), not to non-SMFA students (for whom we don't propose to change anything).

Effectively, we will allow the BFA degree to take the place of a primary major within the overall program. A student in the BA or BS program in A&S cannot declare only a secondary major, or two secondary majors with no primary major — for example, it's not possible to major in STS and Education. But the work of the BFA program is equivalent to the work of a primary major, so EPC and the SMFA faculty felt it was legitimate to allow a dual-degree student to have only a secondary major in the BA or BS part of the program.

Technically there is no major in the BFA program as presently defined, just the studio requirement (see *Bulletin* p. 23 ff). Since the studio requirement is 76 SHUs, though, it's twice as large as a typical A&S major; we are not letting the dual-degree students off easy.

Naturally, if a student in the program chooses to drop the BFA, that student will need to declare a primary major within A&S, exactly as a student majoring in French and Education (for example) who dropped the French major would have to declare another primary major. SMFA faculty felt this might even be an incentive for dual-degree students to remain in the program.

Secondary majors are not formally defined in the *Bulletin*, but there is a small group of majors that designate themselves as "secondary majors" or "co-majors," including Education, Environmental Studies (one of the program's two majors), and Science, Technology, and Society.