

October, 2017

The departments of Theatre and Drama and Educational Policy Studies are proposing that their undergraduate majors—Theatre and Drama and Education Studies, respectively—be offered as “additional majors” for students who are completing other degree programs in the School of Education and in other schools/colleges.

Currently only majors associated with the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees in the College of Letters and Science have been permitted to be declared as “additional majors” by L&S students or by students in other schools and colleges. An additional major allows students to complete majors that are either complementary to their primary major or that reflect another area of scholarly interest. For instance, an L&S student can complete a Political Science major and an additional L&S major in History; a School of Education Art degree student can declare an additional L&S major in English; and a CALS Biology major can complete an additional L&S major in Psychology. This practice of choosing additional majors is relatively common on campus; according to Academic Planning and Institutional Research, 28% of 6,486 bachelor’s degree recipients in 2012-13 completed two or more majors (<https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/vv70vce5rsxuwste7fax67dqcnnypwhi>).

While students from across campus can complete most L&S majors as additional majors, other schools/colleges do not generally offer their majors as “additional majors,” especially for students outside their school/college. There are a few reasons for this. Some majors are part of a complex degree structure that includes crucial non-major components—the “education foundation” requirements, for instance, in teacher preparation programs. For some degree programs the school/college breadth requirements are considered a critical component of a student’s academic work. Until recently, the Provost’s Office argued that, based on degree program structure, only the College of Letters and Science was permitted to offer additional majors. This position was reversed in spring 2017.

Two programs in the School of Education have considered these issues and requested permission to offer their majors as “additional majors” to students within and outside the School of Education.

- The Department of Theatre and Drama was located until recently in the College of Letters and Science, and its Theatre and Drama undergraduate major was often chosen as an “additional major” by students across campus. Due to the policies in place at the time, this opportunity to be taken as an additional major was lost when the department moved to the School of Education. Department faculty are requesting that all students be permitted to complete its major as an additional major.
- The Education Studies major, located in the Department of Educational Policy Studies, is relatively new. Throughout its development the faculty believed that Education Studies had the possibility of being a popular additional major for degree students in L&S, Human Ecology, and elsewhere on campus. Student inquiries this summer and fall have suggested that this is the case.

The associated departments have verified that they possess the instructional and advising resources to serve students choosing their majors. Both majors have modest total credit requirements, and thus should not extend time-to-degree for participating students.

This proposal requires approvals by the SoE Programs Committee and Academic Planning Council. Because declaration of an additional major requires academic dean’s approval, other campus school/college student academic affairs offices, curriculum committees, and APCs will be consulted as necessary. Once approved at the School level and discussed with other schools/colleges, Dean’s office staff will work with the Registrar’s Office and Provost’s Office around remaining technical issues. Students completing one of these majors will be able to determine their major completion status using the DARS degree audit system.

Other SoE departments that offer undergraduate degrees have considered the opportunity to propose their majors as “additional majors” and have declined at this point.