



**ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
INTER-COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**DOUBLE MAJOR POLICY (2/22/06)**

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**1. Definition**

The purpose of the double major is to broaden a student's college education. A degree at RIT is defined as the combination of a major – a thematically related set of academic courses (consisting of no fewer than 90 credit hours for a BS and 135 credits for a BFA) – and the state liberal arts and sciences requirements (again consisting of no fewer than 90 credit hours for a BS and 45 credits for a BFA) leading toward a diploma. A double major would consist of the major and liberal arts and sciences requirements in one program along with the major course requirements of a second program leading to a single diploma. Students may fulfill requirements for each major using the same coursework. Therefore, in order to ensure the integrity of both majors, there must be at least 28 credits of unique and non-overlapping coursework in each major exclusive of electives. Double Majors differs from a Dual Degree (see D2.0L) in that the student receives only one diploma with both majors listed. (In a Dual Degree, students receive a diploma from each degree program.)

**2. Institutional parameters**

- a. Only matriculated students may enroll in a double-major degree.
- b. Both majors in a double-major degree must be existing approved degree programs.
- c. Students must meet the entrance criteria for both degrees.
- d. A double-major degree requires the approval of the heads of both degree programs, who should take into consideration issues such as potential scheduling conflicts.
- e. A double-major degree must satisfy the graduation and accreditation requirements for both degree programs.
- f. Both degree programs must be of the same type (i.e. both BS degrees or both BFA degrees). The double major will be the same type as the two component majors.
- g. It is possible to use a single requirement to meet the needs of both majors; double counting is allowed so long as the heads of both degree programs approve it.
- h. In cases where the two majors do not have 28 unique and non-overlapping credits hours, students must take enough additional course credits in either or both of the majors to meet the 28 credit minimum.

### **3. Development, Approval, and Administration Processes**

Any member of the RIT community may initiate a request for the creation of a double major by sending a written request to the heads of the departments offering the two majors. The curriculum requirements for the double-major will be developed by the appropriate personnel of the two degree programs and approved by the heads of both degree programs. For these double majors, developed for individual students, the Vice President for Academic Affairs will validate that all criteria for the double major have been met.

In the event that both degree programs wish to have the double major published and available to the general RIT community, the Inter-College Curriculum Committee will review the proposal and provide recommendations to the Chief Academic Officer. The status of all double majors submitted to the ICC, whether approved or denied, will be made available to the RIT community, and approved double majors will be publicized as appropriate.

Prior to an individual student enrolling into any double-major, it is assumed that there will be careful planning to ensure that the student can meet all the degree requirements of both programs. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the certification officer in each of the two degree programs to verify that the agreed upon graduation requirements for their portion of the double-major have been satisfied.