DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

REQUIREMENTS AND DEFINITIONS FOR BACCALAUREATE MAJORS,
MINORS, CONCENTRATIONS AND
UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATES

Adopted 4.03.2017

Academic Council

Majors

Students must fulfill the requirements of a major, which is a cohesive combination of courses including introductory, intermediate, and advanced coursework that designates a student’s primary area of study. Courses that may be used to fulfill the major are designated by the academic department or program offering the major. The major must be completed with a minimum grade point average of 2.0. Departments may set higher requirements for courses and the entire major program of study.

A minimum of (30) semester hours is required for a major, and a minimum of 18 semester hours must be completed in residence at Duquesne University. Credit earned through Advanced Placement (AP) Exams, CLEP, and Credit-by-Exam may count as credits-in-residence. All students are required to complete one major, although students may elect to complete more than one. There is no restriction on credit-sharing between majors and minors, the University Core Curriculum, or a School’s or the College’s Core Curriculum.

Minors

Students may elect or be required to complete one or more minors. A minor is a focused area of study that may or may not be related to a major and which requires the completion of a minimum of 15 semester hours. **Students may not pursue a major and a minor in the same discipline.** Courses that may be used to fulfill the minor are designated by the academic department or program offering the minor. The minor must be completed with a minimum grade point average of 2.0. Departments may set higher requirements for courses and the entire minor program of study.

A minimum of 6 semester hours of the minor must be completed in residence at Duquesne University, and credit earned through Advanced Placement (AP) Exams, CLEP, and Credit-by-Exam may count as credits-in-residence. There is no restriction on credit-sharing between majors and minors, the University Core Curriculum, or a School’s or the College’s Core Curriculum.

Concentration
A concentration is a focus within a major which results in concentrated training in or knowledge of a particular area of the major. A concentration requires a minimum of 15 semester hours which may also count toward the minimum of 30 semester hours required for the major. Courses that may be used to fulfill the concentration are designated by the academic department or program offering the concentration. There is no restriction on credit-sharing between the concentration and the University Core Curriculum or a School’s or the College’s Core Curriculum.

CERTIFICATES

A certificate is a credential that requires completion of an organized program of study at the postsecondary, post-baccalaureate, or post-master’s levels. Certificates are generally organized to provide professional development by equipping students with specific knowledge, skills, and proficiencies. Certificates are not the same as minors since minors are academic in focus and certificates are for applied, professional purposes. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 is required for a certificate.

Postsecondary Certificates require a minimum of 15 semester hours with a maximum of 3 semester hours accepted in transfer. Generally, Duquesne offers postsecondary certificates only to degree-seeking undergraduate students.

Post-baccalaureate and post-master’s certificates require a minimum of 15 semester hours with a maximum of 3 semester hours accepted in transfer. Those pursuing certificates must hold an appropriate baccalaureate and/or master’s degree as specified by the program.

Some certificate programs may be completed while students are pursuing a degree, and degree-seeking students may be eligible for federal financial aid. At Duquesne University, a certificate program pursued as a stand-alone credential does not qualify for federal financial aid since students are not degree-seeking. Certificate-seeking students may apply for other forms of financial aid that may be available to them.