

Survey of Use of Cognate Courses for a Minor and Suggested Change

CAP committee Spring 2018



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What is a Cognate Course?

A cognate course is a course required for completion of a major but is not a major course. For example a BS in Psychology requires MA 2090, but MA 2090 is a mathematics course and is not a major course. The BS in Chemistry requires MA 2320. Again the mathematics course is not Chemistry.

Proposed Change

Currently, we do not designate courses required for the major as cognate or major which is not an uncommon practice at many Colleges and Universities. CAP proposes that we designate courses

required for the major as either a cognate course or as major course. This distinction would be made by the department (or unit) responsible for the major. It may be that for many majors no change is required.

Why is CAP asking for this distinction?

This is connected to two items: how we count major courses for SUNY and, of more immediate concern, is how we count course overlap of majors and minors. Currently, the catalog reads

All minors require a minimum of five courses and 18 credits. A minimum of 16 credits in the minor must be taken **outside the student's major**. Up to two courses in a minor may be transferred from another institution.

The distinction between Cognate Courses and Major courses would clarify this policy.

Peer Institution Policies

Can a cognate course count toward a minor without restriction?

Cognate courses are called

- “Courses in Related Areas” at Cortland and Oneonta
- “Cognate” courses at New Paltz

After surveying a few peer institutions we have found two policy types:

- “Courses in Related Areas” are not restricted in any way as counting toward a minor (Cortland and Oneonta)
- “At least half of the credits for the minor must not be contained within the program plan of the student's major. (This includes major courses as well as required cognate courses.)” (Geneseo and New Paltz)

New Paltz and Geneseo

Policy

At least half of the credits for the minor must not be contained within the program plan of the student's major. (This includes major courses as well as required cognate courses.)

Compared to OW: New Paltz and Geneseo are More lenient.

Number of credits which can count for both a major and a minor			
Total Credits required for minor	18	20	24
Old Westbury (maximum number allowed of credits overlap)	2	4	8
New Paltz and Geneseo (maximum number allowed credits of overlap)	9	10	12

Oneonta and Cortland

Policy

No more than two courses may overlap between/among all majors/minors; any excess requires additional coursework

Compared to OW: Oneonta and Cortland are more lenient.

Number of credits which can count for both a major and a minor			
Credits required for minor	18	20	24
Old Westbury (maximum number allowed credits of overlap)	2	4	8

Cortland and Oneonta (maximum number allowed credits of overlap)	18	20	24
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Appendix

Quoted Documentation from Peer Institution

New Paltz

https://www.newpaltz.edu/ugc/policies/policies_majorminor.html

Minors

A few majors³ require students to minor in a field, but in most cases declaring a minor is optional. Minors typically involve between 18 and 25 credits, and can be a way of exploring an interest area in a less in-depth way than a major, or of organizing elective credits. To determine if a department offers a minor, consult the Undergraduate Catalog. Students who wish to pursue a minor must file a Declaration of Minor form. Contact the department offering the minor to determine the process for completing the declaration form. **At least half of the credits for the minor must not be contained within the program plan of the student's major. (This includes major courses as well as required cognate courses.)** Students will be expected to fulfill the minor requirements that are in effect at the time the minor is officially declared. Transfer credits may be applied to minor requirements; however, one-half of the minor must be completed at New Paltz. Students should consult the department regarding minimum grade requirements for courses used to fulfill the minor.

Geneseo

<https://www.geneseo.edu/bulletin>

From the **[2017-2018 Undergraduate Bulletin \[PDF\]](#)**

Declaring Majors and Minors

Successful completion of a major program is a graduation requirement. Students must declare a major by the beginning of the junior year (i.e., by the time they complete 60 credits). Students who have not declared a major by that time are considered to be not making progress

toward a degree and are not eligible for financial aid. In addition, the College reserves the right to prohibit the registration of any student who has not formally declared a major by the time he/she has achieved status as a junior. The major is declared by completing and returning the appropriate form, which is available from the Office of the Dean of Academic Planning & Advising, Erwin 106.

Additionally, students who wish to major in programs offered by the School of Business and by the School of Education must apply for admission into those programs. Information about admissions standards can be found on the department websites and in the academic program sections of this Bulletin. Candidates for teaching certification should also complete the form to identify their certification programs and concentrations.

Students may choose to complete up to two minors, which are declared by completing and returning the appropriate form to the Office of the Dean of Academic Planning & Advising.

At least 9 credits of a minor must be distinct (i.e., not overlap with Major Requirements or overlap with the requirements of another Minor or Concentrations.)

Students may choose to complete a second major. At least 24 credits of a second must be distinct (i.e., not overlap with Major Requirements of the first major). Permission is required from a department or school offering two or more majors in order for a student to have a second major within the same department or school. Students completing two majors must satisfy the writing requirement of their first major.

Students may use required related courses outside of their major department to satisfy the requirements of a second major. Students may use courses in second major and minors to satisfy the general education requirements. A student's declared curriculum, including major(s), minor(s), and concentration(s), is indicated on the official transcript.

Cortland

<https://catalog.cortland.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=2807>

Under Terminology

Minors

A minor is an approved program of study, not leading to a degree, in an area outside the major. A minor comprises a minimum of 15 credit hours; half of these credit hours must be taken at SUNY Cortland. Students cannot minor in the same area as the major or concentration. Likewise, students cannot earn a concentration in the same area as the minor.

Chemistry Major

https://catalog.cortland.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=29&poid=4730&returnto=2812

A. Required Courses: 45 credit hours

In addition to the course requirements listed below, students must take five additional credit hours in chemistry at the 300 level or above, excluding CHE 305 and CHE 306.

Students who fulfill this requirement in part by taking 2 cr. hrs. of CHE 480 - Independent Research, fulfill the requirements for the American Chemical Society approved major in Chemistry.

CHE 221 - General Chemistry I (4 cr. hr.)
CHE 222 - General Chemistry II (4 cr. hr.)
CHE 301 - Organic Chemistry I (4 cr. hr.)
CHE 302 - Organic Chemistry II (3 cr. hr.)
CHE 304 - Organic Chemistry Laboratory II (1 cr. hr.)
CHE 310 - Foundations of Analytical Chemistry (4 cr. hr.)
CHE 340 - Inorganic Chemistry (3 cr. hr.)
CHE 361 - Introduction to Research in Chemistry and Biochemistry (1 cr. hr.)
CHE 431 - Physical Chemistry I (3 cr. hr.)
CHE 432 - Physical Chemistry II (3 cr. hr.)
CHE 451 - Biochemistry I (3 cr. hr.)
CHE 461 - Senior Seminar in Chemistry and Biochemistry (1 cr. hr.)
CHE 477 - Advanced Laboratory I (3 cr. hr.)
CHE 478 - Advanced Laboratory II (3 cr. hr.)

B. Related Courses: 17-20 credit hours

MAT 121 - Calculus A (3 cr. hr.) and
MAT 122 - Calculus B (3 cr. hr.)

or

MAT 135 - Calculus I (4 cr. hr.) and
MAT 236 - Calculus II (4 cr. hr.)

Plus

One additional math course at the 200 level or higher, selected in consultation with advisor.
Appropriate courses would include MAT 224, MAT 237, MAT 272 and MAT 430.

Plus

PHY 201 - Principles of Physics I (4 cr. hr.)
PHY 202 - Principles of Physics II (4 cr. hr.)

Oneonta

<https://suny.oneonta.edu/academics/majors-programs/minors/advertising-minor>

Notes:

1. College rules pertaining to curriculum majors also apply to curriculum minors

Minor GPA of at least 2.0

All courses must be taken for a letter grade unless offered Pass/Fail only

One half (1/2) of the minor coursework must be completed in residence

No more than two courses may overlap between/among all majors/minors; any excess requires additional coursework

2. Check proper course selection, sequence and prerequisite requirements with the department of the minor

http://catalog.oneonta.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=4&poid=278

Chemistry Major

Study Within the Major Field: 51 s.h.

Required: 45 s.h.

-
- [CHEM 111 - General Chemistry I 4 s.h.](#)
 - [CHEM 112 - General Chemistry II 4 s.h.](#)
 - [CHEM 221 - Organic Chemistry I 4 s.h.](#)
 - [CHEM 241 - Descriptive Inorganic Chemistry 3 s.h.](#)
 - [CHEM 322 - Organic Chemistry II 4 s.h.](#)
 - [CHEM 331 - Biochemistry I 4 s.h.](#)
 - [CHEM 342 - Theories of Inorganic Chemistry 3 s.h.](#)
 - [CHEM 351 - Physical Chemistry I 3 s.h.](#)
 - [CHEM 352 - Physical Chemistry II 4 s.h.](#)
 - [CHEM 354 - Physical Chemistry I Lab 1 s.h.](#)
 - [CHEM 361 - Analytical Chemistry I 4 s.h.](#)

- [CHEM 362 - Analytical Chemistry II 4 s.h.](#)
- [CHEM 398 - Senior Undergraduate Seminar 3 s.h.](#)

Electives from Approved List: 6 s.h.

- [CHEM 242 - Inorganic Chemistry Lab 1 s.h.](#)
- [CHEM 315 - Advanced Environmental Chemistry 3 s.h.](#)
- [CHEM 323 - Advanced Organic Chemistry 3 s.h.](#)
- [CHEM 332 - Biochemistry II 4 s.h.](#)
- [CHEM 334 - Biochemistry in Health and Disease 3 s.h.](#)
- [CHEM 353 - Physical Chemistry III 3 s.h.](#)
- [CHEM 363 - Advanced Instrumental Methods of Organic Analysis 3 s.h.](#)
- [CHEM 399 - Independent Study in Chemistry 1 s.h. - 3 s.h.](#) (a maximum of 3sh can be from [CHEM 399](#))

Courses in Related Areas: 22 s.h.

Required: 16 s.h.

- [MATH 223 - Calculus I 4 s.h.](#)
- [MATH 224 - Calculus II 4 s.h.](#)
- [PHYS 203 - General Physics I 4 s.h.](#)
- [PHYS 204 - General Physics II 4 s.h.](#)

COMP Elective from Approved List:

- [COMP 200 - Advanced Composition 3 s.h.](#)
- [COMP 210 - Techniques of the Research Paper 3 s.h.](#)
- [COMP 211 - Writing About Nature and the Environment 3 s.h.](#)
- [COMP 239 - Technical and Professional Writing 3 s.h.](#)

STEM Elective: 3 s.h.

Must be offered within the School of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, excluding Chemistry & Biochemistry

Oneonta¹ (and presumably Cortland) use the phrase “Courses in Related Areas” to refer to cognate courses. They are not restricted in any from counting for the minor.

Old Westbury Minor Section from the Catalog 2016-2018

Current Catalog Entry

General Information

A minor is a cluster of related courses that the student completes in addition to his/her major. Successful completion of the minor will be noted on the student’s transcript. Minors are sponsored either by a single department or by a group of departments contributing courses to the minor. Students interested in discussing a minor with an advisor should consult with faculty in the department(s) listed as sponsors of the minor. Declaration details may be requested at DECMAJR@oldwestbury.edu. All minors require a minimum of five courses and 18 credits. A minimum of 16 credits in the minor must be taken outside the student’s major. Up to two courses in a minor may be transferred from another institution.

Completion of a minor requires a 2.0 cumulative grade point average in courses applied to the minor. No D grades may be applied toward a minor.

Following is a list of available minors, with descriptions and specific requirements for each:

Accounting	Industrial and Labor Relations	Psychology
African American Studies	Islamic Studies	Public Policy
Computer and Information Sciences	Marketing	Social Work
Environmental Studies	Mathematics	Spanish
French Studies	Media and Communications	Visual Arts
General Business	Media Design	Women and Gender Studies
Global Studies	Multicultural US/British	
Hispanic Cultural Studies	Literature	
	Pre-Law Studies	

Suggested Catalog Entry

General Information

¹ Confirmed in a March 13th email with Charles Ragozzine.

A minor is a cluster of related courses that the student completes in addition to his/her major. Successful completion of the minor will be noted on the student's transcript. Minors are sponsored either by a single department or by a group of departments contributing courses to the minor. Students interested in discussing a minor with an advisor should consult with faculty in the department(s) listed as sponsors of the minor. Declaration details may be requested at DECMAJR@oldwestbury.edu. All minors require a minimum of five courses and 18 credits. A minimum of 16 credits in the minor must be taken outside the student's major ([cognate courses are not counted as courses in a student's major](#)). Up to two courses in a minor may be transferred from another institution. Completion of a minor requires a [minimum](#) 2.0 cumulative grade point average in courses applied to the minor. No D grades may be applied toward a minor. Following is a list of available minors, with descriptions and specific requirements for each:

Accounting	Hispanic Cultural Studies	Philosophy and Religion
African American Studies	Industrial and Labor Relations	Pre-Law Studies
Computer and Information Sciences	Islamic Studies	Psychology
Digital Design Marketing	Italian	Neuropsychology
Entertainment and Sports Management	Marketing	Public Policy
Environmental Studies	Mathematics	Social Work
French Studies	Applied Mathemtics	Spanish
General Business	Media and Communications	Visual Arts
Global Studies	Media Design	Women and Gender Studies
	Multicultural US/British Literature	

Possible Example of a change of a Majors listing

Current Requirements for a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree in Chemistry (cognate courses in green)

A. Liberal Education Curriculum		MA2320 Calculus II	4
Refer to the Liberal Education Curriculum Bulletin for specific requirements.			
B. Core Requirements		Chemistry Electives	
(include 1 Chemistry elective) 51 credits (minimum)		(at least one of the following)	
		2-5 credits	
CP2130 Principles of Chemistry II	3		
CP2131 Principles of Chemistry II Lab	1		
CP3300 Organic Chemistry I	3	CP3230 Mathematical Methods in the Physical Sciences	3
CP3302 Organic Chemistry I Lab	2	CP4320 Advanced Organic Chemistry	3
CP3310 Organic Chemistry II	3	CP4510 Biochemistry I	3
CP3312 Organic Chemistry II Lab	2	CP4515 Biochemistry II	3
CP3400 Analytical Chemistry	5	CP4520 Biochemistry Lab	2
CP4700 Physical Chemistry I	3	CP4720 Physical Chemistry Lab	2
CP4710 Physical Chemistry II	3	CP4800 Advanced Chemical Methods	5
CP4720 Physical Chemistry Lab	2	CP5500 Advanced Topics in Chemistry	3
OR		CP5600 Advanced Inorganic Chemistry	3
CP4520 Biochemistry Lab	2	CP5900 Research	2-4
CP5920 Senior Seminar I	1	CP9990 Independent Study in Chemistry/Physics	2-4
CP5921 Senior Seminar II	1		
CP2220 Structure of Physics I	3		
OR			
CP2240 General Physics I	3		
CP2221 Structure of Physics I Lab	1		
OR			
CP2230 Structure of Physics II	3		
CP2241 General Physics I Lab	1		
OR			
CP2250 General Physics II	3		
CP2231 Structure of Physics II Lab	1		
OR			
CP2251 General Physics II Lab	1		
MA2310 Calculus I	4		
		C. General Electives	
		In consultation with Academic Advisor	
		Total Credits Required:	120
		No more than 4 credits of research can be counted toward satisfying elective requirements and no more than 8 credits toward degree requirements.	

Possible Change of Requirements for a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree in Chemistry (changes in green)

A. Liberal Education Curriculum		CP5500 Advanced Topics in Chemistry	3
Refer to the Liberal Education Curriculum Bulletin for specific requirements.		CP5600 Advanced Inorganic Chemistry	3
		CP5900 Research	2-4
B. Major Courses		CP9990 Independent Study in Chemistry/Physics	2-4
Core Requirements			
CP2130 Principles of Chemistry II	3		
CP2131 Principles of Chemistry II Lab	1		
CP3300 Organic Chemistry I	3		
CP3302 Organic Chemistry I Lab	2		
CP3310 Organic Chemistry II	3		
CP3312 Organic Chemistry II Lab	2		
CP3400 Analytical Chemistry	5		
CP4700 Physical Chemistry I	3		
CP4710 Physical Chemistry II	3		
CP4720 Physical Chemistry Lab	2		
OR			
CP4520 Biochemistry Lab	2		
CP5920 Senior Seminar I	1		
CP5921 Senior Seminar II	1		
Chemistry Electives			
(at least one of the following)			
2-5 credits			
CP3230 Mathematical Methods in the Physical Sciences	3		
CP4320 Advanced Organic Chemistry	3		
CP4510 Biochemistry I	3		
CP4515 Biochemistry II	3		
CP4520 Biochemistry Lab	2		
CP4720 Physical Chemistry Lab	2		
CP4800 Advanced Chemical Methods	5		
		C. Cognates	
		CP2220 Structure of Physics I	3
		OR	
		CP2240 General Physics I	3
		CP2221 Structure of Physics I Lab	1
		OR	
		CP2230 Structure of Physics II	3
		CP2241 General Physics I Lab	1
		OR	
		CP2250 General Physics II	3
		CP2231 Structure of Physics II Lab	1
		OR	
		CP2251 General Physics II Lab	1
		MA2310 Calculus I	4
		MA2320 Calculus II	4
		D. General Electives	
		In consultation with Academic Advisor	
		Total Credits Required:	120
		No more than 4 credits of research can be counted toward satisfying elective requirements and no more than 8 credits toward degree requirements.	