

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-2717-05/AA (Rev)
September 16, 2005

Diplomas for Double Majors

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) assert that a student's diploma should accurately reflect the baccalaureate accomplishments of that student; in particular, if a student simultaneously completes the requirements for two (or more) baccalaureate degrees prior to graduation, both (or all) of these programs should be listed on the student's diploma; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU urge the Chancellor to direct the campuses of the CSU to issue diplomas that reflect these students' accomplishments. This directive would supersede AA 72-12.

RATIONALE: The Chancellor's Office requested that the Academic Senate CSU provide guidance on the issue of recording and recognizing "double majors" for students who complete baccalaureate degree requirements in two or more programs, particularly when two different types of programs are involved; e.g., a Bachelor of Arts program and a Bachelor of Science program.

Many universities in the U.S. allow for double majors. This occurs when students, who in the course of one undergraduate career, complete the requirements for two majors (e.g., history and English) that lead to the same type of degree (in this example, the BA) and typically receive a single bachelor's degree – a BA with majors in history and English. In some cases, a student completes the requirement for two majors (e.g., English and music performance) that have different types of bachelor's degrees (in this example a BA and a Bachelor of Fine Arts [BFA]). Another example is the student who majors in English and mathematics, earning a BA in English and a BS in mathematics.

CSU statewide practice has been to require that students with a double major must choose a single degree to list on their diploma. Their transcripts do acknowledge both majors. The Academic Senate CSU strongly recommends that diplomas, as well as transcripts, should reflect the accomplishments of the students.

Thus if a student completed BA programs in both history and English, the diploma should read:

Bachelor of Arts with majors in History and English

A student who earns a BA in English and a BFA in music performance would have a diploma that reads:

*Bachelor of Arts with a major in English
Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in Music Performance*

A student with a BA in English and a BS in mathematics would have a diploma that lists:

Bachelor of Arts with a major in English
Bachelor of Science with a major in Mathematics

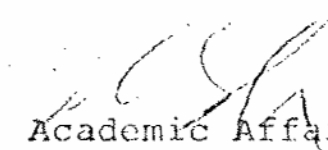
The student should be consulted as to the order of listing on the diploma.

Approved Unanimously – November 3, 2005

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGES
Office of the Chancellor
5670 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90036

October 24, 1972

TO: Presidents AA 72 - 12

FROM: W. B. Langsdorf 
Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Recording of Double Majors (and/or Double Degrees) on Diplomas

Several campuses have requested clarification regarding the appropriate diploma notations for graduating students who have completed double majors (and/or double degrees). The following guidelines, which have been discussed by the Chancellor's Council of Presidents, are intended to provide policy clarification with regard to the issuance of diplomas:

1. Campuses awarding to graduating students a diploma which identifies the major are authorized to list on the diploma any majors completed by the student which lead to the single degree being awarded.
2. In the event that a student has completed two majors leading to different degrees, for example BA and BS, the student should be required to declare one major as the degree major, in order to determine the appropriate degree to be awarded and the notation on the diploma. No campus shall grant to the same graduating student two diplomas or two degrees, as distinguished from majors, at the same commencement.
3. All majors completed by a student should be recorded on the transcript.

WBL:db

cc: Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs
Deans of Admissions and Records
Chancellor's Staff