Why choose a minor?

Your most important decision about your academic career at the U of M will be what you choose as your major. But pursuing a minor in a secondary subject enhances both your educational experience and your opportunities after graduation.

Here are some specific benefits:

- Complementing your major with a minor in a related field deepens your knowledge base. For example, an English major with a Women’s Studies or International Studies minor indicates a focused area of interest employers will value!
- A minor also heightens your credentials. If you are a Biology major with a Chemistry minor on your transcript, you look more focused and well rounded to a graduate admissions committee.
- Especially for students in Bachelor of Science programs, the courses you take for your major may bring you close to a minor in another field. For instance, Chemistry majors need only a few more courses to have a minor in Biology, or Physics majors need a few more courses in Mathematics for a minor.
- You might just love more than one subject. So you’re a pre-med chemistry major, but you love art history. Get a minor—and enjoy it.
- World languages are the most popular minors at the U of M – because of the international nature of our world, the need to understand other cultures, and the desire to develop a skill in another language.
- You can’t return to the U of M for a minor as you can for a second major, so earn that extra qualification now!

What do I have to do to complete a minor?

Most minors require only 18-21 hours of coursework in a department or program outside your major. Many students don’t realize that they’re only 4 or 5 courses away from earning a minor once they’ve completed their Gen Ed requirements! If you plan early, you won’t miss the opportunity for this extra credential.
How do I declare a minor?

Come to Scates 107 if your major is in Arts and Sciences; all you have to do is fill out a form. If your major is in another college, go to the undergraduate advising office of that college.

What minors are available?

You can work toward a minor in any of these programs in the College of Arts and Sciences:

- Aerospace Studies
- Anthropology
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Cognitive Science
- Computer Science
- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Earth Sciences
- English
- Geography
- Healthcare and Society
- History
- Legal Thought and Liberal Arts
- Mathematics
- Military Science
- Naval Sciences
- Nonprofit Management
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Sociology
- Social Work
- World Languages*
  - Chinese
  - French
  - German
  - Italian
  - Japanese
  - Russian
  - Spanish

For a list of the requirements of these minors, check the College/Degree Program section of the Undergraduate Catalog (http://catalog.memphis.edu) or this website: http://www.memphis.edu/cas/pdfs/minors_cas.pdf
What is special about a World Language minor?

The Department of World Languages and Literatures offers students a chance to test into a higher level of their language, often the case if they have taken 3 or 4 years in high school. Starting at a higher level makes completing a minor in the language easier. The World Languages and Literatures website has more information: http://www.memphis.edu/wll.

Another opportunity for world language acquisition is the Study Abroad program. Students can choose to spend a semester or a year in another country learning their language at a deeper level through immersion while taking courses toward their U of M degree. There are also short term opportunities to study a world language for several weeks during the summer. For more information on the Study Abroad program, check this website: http://www.memphis.edu/abroad/

Why not choose an Interdisciplinary minor?

The College of Arts and Sciences also offers attractive minors in popular interdisciplinary programs:

- African & African American Studies
- Asian Studies
- Classical Studies
- Emergency Management
- Environmental Studies
- Healthcare and Society
- International Studies
- Judaic Studies
- Legal Thought and Liberal Arts
- Religious Studies
- Women’s Studies

The courses required in these programs come from different disciplines or subject areas at the university to broaden students’ knowledge in the specific topic. For example, the African and African American Studies minor incorporates courses in the Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Arts. The Environmental Studies minor allows students to consider biological-physical threats and solutions as well as behavioral-social-economic implications with courses in the sciences, social and behavioral sciences and economics. For students interested in pursuing careers in the legal profession, the Legal Thought and Liberal Arts minor provides exposure to a broader liberal arts curriculum, with particular emphasis on attributes required by the legal profession: reading critically, thinking logically, and writing clearly.

For further information on any of these interdisciplinary minors, please visit this website: http://www.memphis.edu/isc/
Does my minor have to be in the same college as my major?

No, you may choose to work toward a minor in another college. You could add a fine arts minor in art, dance, photography, or theater. Or you could choose a business minor in accounting, economics, or sales.

Here is a complete list of all the minors available:
http://catalog.memphis.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=69

Do I have to choose a minor?

In the College of Arts and Sciences, students are not required to have a minor.

For more information, please contact:

Patsy Krech, Director of Advising
College of Arts and Sciences
pakrech@memphis.edu

Interdisciplinary Studies Office
Scates Hall 107; 901-678-3550
http://www.memphis.edu/isc/

Minors in the College of Arts and Sciences:
http://www.memphis.edu/cas/pdfs/minors_cas.pdf

Other University Resources:

The University of Memphis
http://www.memphis.edu

The College of Arts and Sciences
http://www.memphis.edu/cas

UM Career Services
http://www.memphis.edu/careerservices

The University of Memphis is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University. It is committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body.