

Degrees and Majors

When students have completed an undergraduate program at the University of Memphis (UM), they earn a Bachelor's degree. Several bachelor's degrees can be earned at the University of Memphis, and in the College of Arts and Sciences, there are 3:

- Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- Bachelor of Science (BS)
- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (BSCh)

Bachelor of Arts (BA) majors in Arts and Sciences:

African and African American Studies
Anthropology
Criminology and Criminal Justice
Earth Science
Economics
Foreign Language
History
International studies
Philosophy
Political Science
Psychology
Social Work
Sociology

Bachelor of Science (BS) majors in Arts and Sciences:

Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science
Mathematical Sciences
Physics

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (BSCh)

Chemistry

Each bachelor's degree includes specific requirements that students must meet – General Education courses, college or degree requirements, major requirements, and electives to total 120 hours.

General Education courses: <http://www.memphis.edu/ugcatalog/graduation/gened.php>

Arts and Sciences majors and requirements: <http://www.memphis.edu/ugcatalog/collegeprog/cas/index.php>

Upon graduation, the diploma includes the degree (e.g., Bachelor of Arts) that students earned, but not the major or majors. The official transcript will show the majors/minors/concentrations a student has earned, as well as the degree. Students with two or more majors receive two diplomas only if their majors fall under two different degrees. For example, English and History are included under the BA degree, so a student in those majors would receive just one diploma. A student with a major in Mathematical Science and a major in English would receive 2 degrees/diplomas – BS and BA.

Special Second Majors earning one degree:

A few majors in the College of Arts and Sciences and in the Herff College of Engineering offer a special second major with more streamlined requirements since the two majors are closely related. Students who choose these options receive only one degree, and both majors are listed on the official transcript. These programs are as follows:

Computer Science-

2014 and earlier catalogs:

Second Major in Computer Science for Engineering Majors (33 hours)

Second Major in Computer Science for Majors in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematical Sciences, and Physics (34 hours)

2015 catalog: Second Major for students in any other major:

<http://www.memphis.edu/ugcatalog/collegeprog/cas/computer.php>

Mathematical Sciences-

Second Major in Mathematical Sciences for majors in Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, and Physics (29-30 hours)

Physics-

Second Major for Engineering Students (29 hours beyond PHYS 2110/2111 and 2120/2121)

Second Major for the Bachelor of Science Degree (29 hours beyond PHYS 2110/2111 and 2120/2121)

For the majors in the College of Arts and Sciences with these special second major options (Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematical Sciences, and Physics), students earn only one degree – Bachelor of Science – since all of these majors are encompassed by that degree. Majors in the College of Engineering who add one of these special second majors will earn one degree in Engineering (Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, etc.).

Students in Engineering majors/degrees may choose to complete the regular major and degree requirements (rather than the Special Second Major options listed above) for Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematical Sciences, or Physics, and then will earn both degrees – the Bachelor of Science and the Engineering degree (Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, etc.).

Graduated Students Returning for a Second Major:

If a student completes a BA degree at the University of Memphis with a major in English and returns to complete a major in History, the student will not receive another diploma or degree, only a second major for the same Bachelor's degree already earned. The additional major will show on the student's transcript. These students do not walk in another Commencement ceremony since they do not receive an additional diploma/degree. Because they have completed the degree requirements and the General Education requirements, students earning a second major complete all major requirements for the additional major as listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.

Graduated Students Returning for a Second Degree:

If a student completes a BA degree at the University of Memphis with a major in English and returns to complete a major under another degree, such as Physics, the student would receive another diploma or degree because Physics majors earn a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree. These students can choose to walk in a Commencement ceremony because they do earn another diploma/degree. To earn this second degree, the student must complete all major requirements stated in the Undergraduate Catalog as well as the degree requirements based on the Undergraduate Catalog. Details can be found at this link: http://www.memphis.edu/cas/docs/second_bachelors_degree.doc

Students with a Bachelor's degree from another institution:

If a student completed a bachelor's degree at another institution and later completes a bachelor's degree at the University of Memphis, he or she would earn a degree and receive a diploma from U of M. For example, a student with a BS degree from some other institution who then completes a major in Chemistry at UM will receive a Bachelor of Science (BS) from the University of Memphis. These students could choose to participate in the Commencement ceremony upon completion of the degree. To earn this second degree, the student must complete all major requirements stated in the Undergraduate Catalog as well as the degree requirements based on the Undergraduate Catalog. Details can be found at this link: http://www.memphis.edu/cas/docs/second_bachelors_degree.doc