

Policy for Undergraduate Minors

An academic minor is a curricular component that enables a student to make an inquiry into a discipline or field of study, or to investigate a particular theme. It is organized around a specific set of objectives or question. The objectives of a minor are achieved through an ordered series of courses. Minors are intended to provide general insight in the subject. Course offerings in a minor may be centered in a specific department or drawn from several departments as in the case of a topical or thematic focus.

The term “minor” in baccalaureate programs at ESF designates an approved use of 12-18 credit hours that constitute a coherent plan of study.

Minors may be a department minor or an interdisciplinary minor. Faculty minors are defined by a program or academic department. Interdisciplinary minors are defined by two or more departments with oversight provided by a committee consisting of faculty from each participating department. At least six (6) credits hours of course work used to satisfy an ESF-administered minor must be ESF-registered courses or courses taken at other institutions with which ESF has an academic inter-institution arrangement and taken while the student is matriculated at ESF. Minors designed to use courses taken at other institutions with which ESF has an academic inter-institution arrangement must involve the ESF Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies in the design process as such minors may have impact on inter-institution arrangements.

Students elect a minor by application to (a) the department or academic unit offering the minor; (b) the committee overseeing an interdisciplinary minor; or (c) to the Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies through their program department. Interdisciplinary minors and minors centered at Syracuse University are open to all qualified students, however, students may not pursue a minor whose focus is the same as their main discipline or field of study. Requirements of interdisciplinary minors should be structured to ensure that course work taken within the student’s home program is minimized.

Proposals for minors will include: (a) the prerequisites required; (b) specific courses requirements to complete the minor; and (c) how the courses will be chosen from

among lower and upper division courses, general education courses, professional prerequisites, major requirements, and electives.

Upon successful completion, minors are identified on student transcripts.

The College Faculty approves all minors prior to description in the College catalog and other communications.

Approved by the ESF College Faculty, 22 March 2001; revised Thursday, October 16, 2008 [to accommodate change from “Faculty” to “department”]; revised and approved by ESF College Faculty May 7, 2015 to add wording on the 6 credit hours to be taken while at ESF.