Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) Policy on Options

An option is a formal, University-approved concentration within a major that appears on a student’s transcript. Informal tracks, concentrations, or pathways in a major that do not appear on student transcripts are not subject to the following policies.

1. A program may offer a standard major with options that a student may choose. (For example, a student can earn a BA in Anthropology or a BA in Anthropology with an option in Archaeological Sciences.) Alternatively, a program may require every student to choose one of several options. (For example, students in the Applied and Computational Mathematical Sciences program must choose an option when they declare the major.)

2. Each option within a major, including the standard major, must share at least a 50% common core.

3. The number of total credits for an option should differ by no more than 10 credits from any other option in the major, including the standard major.

4. Options should require a substantial number of credits in each area reflected in the title of the option.

5. Open and minimum admission requirement majors may have competitive options as long as a non-competitive alternative is available.

6. Programs offering options may limit the number of options for which a student may enroll within that program.

7. A student with multiple majors cannot receive an Option in one major that is the same as another of their majors.

8. Each option offered within a degree program must be distinct.