

Implementation Information: Infinite Dipping

August 3, 2023

The following document describes the new course count policy. It will discuss the policy itself and how it will impact programs across the university. Example counting scenarios will be provided to contextualize the policy implementation. If you have further questions about course count and how it will impact your specific programs, please reach out to curriculum@msudenver.edu.

Part I: An Overview of the policy

What is the new course count policy?

Course Count is a policy that will allow a single course a student completes to count in multiple locations within their educational journey. Prior to this policy adoption, a course could only count more than once in a student's educational journey if the course was a General Studies course or within a certificate program. This policy will allow all courses to count almost anywhere that they are indicated as a requirement or option, allowing multiple requirements to be met with a single course. However, it's important to note that the course *credits* will only be counted **once** in terms of the number of credits the course contributes to a student's degree or certificate program. So while it might fulfill multiple requirements, it ultimately is still only worth the credits of the course and counted a single time as such. For example, a student can count MTR 3330 towards the meteorology major credit requirements and the climate change minor credit requirements, but it is still only 3 credits towards the 120 needed to graduate. Additional examples are provided below.

Staff and Faculty Advisors will need to help students understand how this counting will impact their educational journey. Because of this course count rule, students might more efficiently complete the requirements for their major and minor, leaving more room for unrestricted electives. It will be important for students to understand that they are still required to complete at least 120 credits for their bachelor degree per state law, although several programs on campus require more than 120 credits to fulfill all of their required courses.

This rule will be effective in the 2024-2025 university catalogs and is NOT retroactive. This means that students who are declared with a catalog older than the 2024-2025 catalog will NOT see this rule automatically applied to their accounts. Students who would benefit from expanded course count will need to change their catalog year to be eligible.

What other impacts should I consider when planning for this expanded course count rule?

The existing rules around course counts will remain in place with the exception of removal of existing count limitations. Most importantly, students are still required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours outside their major's most recurrent prefix. In an interdisciplinary major, the academic prefix that comprises a majority of the credit hours in the major would be considered the most recurrent prefix. If there is not an academic prefix with a majority of credit hours, then

the prefix that has the largest fraction of credit hours would be considered the most recurrent prefix for the purpose of this rule. In programs where there is a tie in the number of credit hours required per prefix, the department that owns the major for the purposes of the curriculum manual will be treated as the owner of the most recurrent prefix.

Part II: Course Count Logistics Explained

A course would count in each of the following locations:

- Major (this would include concentration(s) and elective options in the major)
 - However, a student who opted to complete multiple concentrations could have courses share within those concentrations.
- Minor
- Certificate
- Licensure
- General Studies (courses can still double count for Global Diversity and another designation)
- Senior Experience
- Service Learning
- Ethnic Studies and Social Justice

Combinations of programs would count as well such as a certificate and a minor.

- Dual major, which is when a student completes two majors within the same degree type would be able to count these courses in each major.
- Concurrent Degree is when a student completes two degrees that are different (e.g., BA and BS). These courses would be able to count in each degree program.

Are there situations where a course will NOT count repeatedly?

Yes, there are two cases where a course will not count, and this is regarding a major and concentrations or elective options, and general electives.

When you consider course count, you should think of the major requirements and the concentrations in a single “bucket”. Courses that are required in a major will not also count in a concentration, nor will they count in major electives. However, if a student is completing more than one concentration, then a course can count in all declared concentrations.

To further expand on this: if a major has a set of required credits/courses and a required concentration(s), the course required for the major will not also fulfill a concentration requirement. This would also be the case with a course that fulfills a major elective option. If a major has a set of required credits and a set of elective credits, a course that is part of the required credits will not also count in the elective credits. It is important that faculty creating and revising curriculum think about this exception when considering their programs. It’s recommended that the same courses are not listed in a major and a concentration. For majors that indicate that any course with the XYZ prefix can count for major electives, courses that are

already fulfilling a major required course requirement or a concentration required or elective course, it will not also count here.

Part III: Examples

Let's now take a look at some examples to help contextualize this information.

Example #1: NUT 2040

This course is:

1. Required in the Nutrition Studies Major
2. An elective in the Human Performance and Sport Minor
3. Approved for Natural and Physical Sciences General Studies Designation
4. A requirement in the Pathway 2 Lactation Consultant Training Certificate Program

A student who was a Nutrition Studies Major and Human Performance and Sport Minor would see this course count in both the major and minor as well as fulfill the General Studies NPS requirement. Additionally, it would also count in the Pathway 2 Lactation Consultant Training Certificate as well.

Example #2: PSY 2210

This course is:

1. Required in the Human Development and Family Studies Major
2. A course option to fulfill a requirement in the Psychology Major
3. An elective option in the Pre-Healthcare Minor

A student who opted to double major in these two programs with a Pre-Healthcare Minor would see this course count in all three programs.

Example #3: ITP 2700

This course is:

1. Required in the Health Care Professional Services Major
2. A course option in the requirements for the Lifestyle Medicine Major
3. An elective option in the Public Health Minor

A student who double-majored in these two programs with a Public Health Minor would see this course count in all three programs.

Let's now consider examples where a course will not count in multiple locations.

Example #1: The Management Major with no concentration

The Management Major includes an option for students to select a concentration or they can opt to not choose a concentration and instead take additional Management courses.

- Students who choose the no concentration option will NOT see the required MGT courses in the major also count in this no concentration course requirement. If it has already been used in other areas of the major, it will not count here.

Example #2: Integrative Health Care Major

The Integrative Health Care Major has several courses that repeat within the program such as ITP 1500, ITP 3800, ITP 3000, ITP 3450, and ITP 3850.

If a student takes one of these courses for the requirements in the major, they will not be able to count it again in one of the concentration options.

E.g., ITP 1500 is required in the major requirements so all students will need to complete it. It's also listed in the Health Navigation Pathway (concentration), but it will never be able to fulfill the requirement in this pathway (concentration). Therefore, students will need to take a different course for this pathway (concentration).

We hope this document has been helpful in explaining the expanded course count policy. Each program at the university will have their own needs and expectations, so this document should be treated as a general reference. If your program has specific requirements or challenges, you can contact curriculum@msudenver.edu and we can provide assistance.

Signatures:

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