

Defining Academic Programs

Presidential Task Force: Sustaining the Academic Priorities at StFX

Goals:

- Limit the number of programs to create a streamlined process with a manageable workload.
- Define programs in a way that allows departments to best capture their work.
- Define programs so that the examination of the discrete parts, if amalgamated, would capture the complexity of the overall department or unit.
- Define programs in a consistent way to allow for fair comparisons across campus.
- Define programs not by job function but by allocation of budget resources.

General Guideline

Degree offerings within a department or interdisciplinary program will be grouped together based on the number of courses and other resources required to complete that credential. [Departments are reminded that every separate credential (e.g. advanced major, subsidiary, minor) carries an overhead in the Registrar's office and in student advising, both within and outside the department.]

The following will normally be examined as distinct programs within departments and interdisciplinary programs where they are offered:

1. **Honours:** Honours and Joint Honours, requiring at least 60 credit hours and a thesis, is the most resource intensive undergraduate credential offered and should be examined separately.
2. **Majors:** Major and some Subsidiary programs, all requiring between 36 and 42 credit hours, should be examined together as one program for the purpose of this review.
3. **Advanced Majors:** Due to the many questions the Task Force received about the distinctiveness of the Advanced Major and its different application between the Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Advanced Majors are being considered as distinct programs.
4. **General courses:** Courses for students not majoring in the department. Service courses required to complete degrees in other Departments should be noted. Courses taken by non-majors and required for application to specific professional or graduate programs should also be captured. Electives, pairs, most Minors, most Subsidiaries, and Concentrations (e.g., Forensics and Geochemistry) should also be examined as general courses.
5. **Graduate degrees:** Each graduate degree, where applicable, will form a separate program.

Notes:

1. In the case of Joint Honours, the department that supervises the thesis should be the one to count the Honours degree.
2. Subsidiaries have evolved differently across campus. In some cases they require the resources of a Major degree, while in others they require the resources of a Minor. Therefore, the Department must locate its Subsidiaries with other degree offerings requiring similar levels of resources.
3. In some professional programs, where Honours and Subsidiaries demand similar levels of departmental resources, they should be grouped together.
4. Minors should be examined as a distinct program only in departments where they are the highest level of concentration offered, such as Art.
5. When departments offer both a BA and BSc degree (i.e. Math, Psychology, HK), these degree options should be grouped together as one program. For example, BA/BSc Honours Psychology

would be considered one program since the same departmental resources are required to offer both credentials.

6. For interdisciplinary programs and cross-listed courses where a home Department offers courses that are then counted as credits towards another program (e.g., History offers 332 The Medieval Body which is cross listed as WMGS 333 and is taken by a WMGS major student) the home Department of this course (in this case, History) counts this course as part of its general offering, and WMGS notes that this student is their major but cannot claim this student as a WMGS course registrant.