**4.1.4 Graduate Minor**

Minors are available in many disciplinary and interdepartmental graduate programs. Some programs offer only a minor. In other programs, students may declare either a major or a minor. Programs offering a major are not required to offer a minor. A student may not major and minor in the same discipline for a single degree or across multiple degrees. To illustrate, a student earning a Ph.D. in computer science may not minor in statistics for their Ph.D. program if they are also pursuing an MS in statistics

In all cases:

* the student must receive approval to pursue the minor from the offering program;
* to complete the minor, the student must meet the requirements established by the program;
* a minor must be approved by the student’s committee and both the major and minor DOGE via the POSC
* the minor must be listed on all examination reports, and on the Application for Graduation, to appear on a student’s transcript after graduation;
* a graduate minor must comprise graduate or undergraduate courses designated as appropriate by the program offering the minor;
* the student must have a minor representative on their committee,
* on that committee, the major professor and the representative from the minor field may not be the same person;
* for students pursuing a master’s degree, the minor representative on the POSC committee must evaluate the student’s competence in the subject area of the minor during the final oral examination;
* for students pursuing a doctorate, the minor representative on the POSC committee must evaluate the student’s competence in the subject area of the minor during the preliminary and final oral examinations; and
* if a doctoral student wishes to add a minor after the student is in candidacy status (preliminary examination passed), their POSC must be revised to declare the minor and to add a minor committee representative, and the preliminary examination must be retaken.

Questions:

Can a student pursue only a minor (as they can for a certificate)? No, minors are not their own credential, so they can only be pursued as part of a degree pursuit.

Can certificate-only graduate students declare a minor? No, minors cannot be attached to certificates.

Should we expect learning outcomes to be documented for minors? This seems like an appropriate step as we prepare for the 2025 HLC accreditation.

The highlighted third bullet above seems incredibly flexible. Are there details that can be added? For example, is there a minimum number of credits for a minor? Is there a limit on the number of undergraduate-course credits that can be used to meet the requirements of a minor? Can credits taken to earn the minor double-count toward credits for a certificate or a major? It seems like we need some guardrails here. There is nothing in current policy that states how many credits are required for a graduate minor and how many of those credits must be at the graduate level. If the Graduate Council wants the Graduate College to have some oversight on this, then we would need to add limits to the number of undergraduate credits that may count toward the minor, etc. We should also think about course level such as 400, 500, 600.

Should this be added to the list of bullets above?:

* Programs offering minors must publish the requirements for the minor in their graduate program handbooks and on their websites. The Graduate College can deny students’ requests for minors if the requirements are not publicly documented in these ways. I think that the first sentence of this statement is appropriate. I think that the second statement is unnecessary. We currently trust that the major requirements are outlined in the program handbooks, but we do not check against those to see if the major requirements are met. Seems that we should leave it up to the minor rep and DOGE to approve or deny the request for a minor based on the POS.