

**University of Windsor
Senate**

*5.5.2: **Changes to All FAHSS Combined Honours Programs**

Item for: **Approval**

Forwarded by: **Program Development Committee**

MOTION: To change the wording of 'other' to read " 'additional' courses from any area of study to a total of forty" for any Combined Honours BA Program.

Rationale:

- Clarifying the meaning of "options"
 - With regard to the "additional options" requirement, some believe this requirement means additional courses in any area of study
 - Others believe that "options" means "non-major course," consistent with the Undergraduate Calendar Glossary
 - This more restrictive definition is reflected on the degree audit, but there is sufficient ambiguity that students sometimes register for major rather than non-major courses to fulfill this requirement, find out too late that these courses won't count, and consequently have to take more than forty (40) courses to graduate
 - It would be less confusing if the word "options" was replaced in the last requirement either with the more inclusive definition "courses in any area of study" or the more restrictive definition: "non-major courses"
- Choosing the inclusive or the restrictive definition of "other requirements"
 - Allowing students to take either major or non-major courses enables students with a real passion for one or both of their majors to take some more courses, and these additional courses may make them more competitive if they are applying to graduate school in one of their major subjects
 - Changing to the more inclusive definition would be consistent with the inclusive definition used by the Faculty of Science ("additional courses from any area of study to a total of forty") and would increase compatibility for current and future inter-faculty combined honours programs
 - The advantage of restricting "other requirements" to non-major courses is that it forces students to take more than eight (8) non-major courses. But if this is the goal, then it should be required that all Combined Honours programs include eight (8) non-major courses
 - The proposal has been approved by the Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Coordinating Council and the Program Development Committee.