MAJORS AND MINORS

Major Field of Study
Mills believes that studying one field in depth gives shape and purpose to a student’s educational program. As soon as a major is chosen, the student is encouraged to plan a course of study for the full program to graduation. A few disciplines require a sequence of courses that begins in the first year. Many majors also require that the student select a particular emphasis within the major which will determine the exact course requirements for that major. Courses in the major must be completed with letter grades.

A major field of study most often lies within a single department, but divisional and interdivisional majors bring together related materials from several disciplines. A single-discipline major will typically require 31 to 57 semester course credits within the discipline. In some cases, related courses in other disciplines will be required and elective courses outside the major field may be suggested. A divisional or interdivisional major requires a minimum of 30 semester course credits within the combined fields of concentration. In addition, most departments plan for their seniors a capstone experience that provides a synthesis of the material in the major field. This experience might be a comprehensive examination, a senior seminar, a thesis, a performance, a project, or a combination of exercises. (See Declaring a Major.)

Students may also create their own individualized major. (See Individualized Major section below.)

Minor Field of Study
Minor programs, consisting of 15 to 21 semester course credits, are authorized in certain fields or disciplines. Courses in the minor sequence may not be duplicated in the student’s major sequence. A student may not major and minor in the same discipline. Courses in the minor must be completed with letter grades. (See Declaring a Minor.)

Majors and Minors
Art and Technology (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/art-technology) major, minor

Art History (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/art-history) major, minor

Art (Studio) (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/art-studio) major, minor

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/biochemistry-molecular-biology) major (BA and BS)

Biology (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/biology) major (BA and BS), minor

Biopsychology (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/biopsychology) major (BA and BS)


Business Administration (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/business-administration) major, minor

Business Economics (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/business-economics) major

Chemistry (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/chemistry) major (BA and BS), minor

Child Development (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/child-development) major, minor

Chinese Language and Culture (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/chinese-language-culture) minor

Communication (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/communication) major

Computer Science (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/computer-science) major, minor

Dance (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/dance) major, minor

Data Science (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/data-science) major

Economics (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/economics) major, minor

Education (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/education) major

Engineering (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/engineering) 3+2 program

English with Emphasis in Creative Writing (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/english) major, minor

English with Emphasis in Literature (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/english) major, minor

Environmental Science (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/environmental-science) major (BA and BS)

Environmental Studies (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/environmental-studies) major

Ethnic Studies (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/ethnic-studies) major, minor

French and Francophone Studies (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/french-francophone-studies) minor

Global Humanities and Critical Thought (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/global-humanities-critical-thought) major, minor

History (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/history) major, minor

History of Philosophy (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/history/philosophy) minor

Individualized Major (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/individualized-major) major
Bachelor's to Master's Accelerated Degree Programs

Mills offers more than 10 accelerated degree options that enable students to earn a bachelor's and a master's degree in just five years:

- BA/MAE Applied Economics (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bamae-applied-economics-program)
- BA/MBA Business Administration (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bamba-accelerated-degree)
- BA/MA Early Childhood Special Education/Teaching Credential (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bama-child-developmentearly-childhood-special-education-credential)
- BA/MA Infant Mental Health (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bama-infant-mental-health)
- BA/MA Interdisciplinary Computer Science (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/ba-ma-interdisciplinary-computer-science)
- BA/MM Management (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bamm-accelerated-degree)
- BA/MPP Public Policy (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/barmpp-accelerated-masters-degree-program)
- BA/MA Education/Teaching Credential (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/bama-teacher-education)
- BA/Joint MPP/MA (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-degree-programs/joint-mppmba-accelerated-degree-program)

Preprofessional Programs

Mills offers students in any major additional guidance in shaping their curriculum to conform to entrance requirements for professional graduate schools in:

- Medicine/Health Sciences (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/preprofessional-programs/medicine-health-sciences)
- Pre-Law (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/preprofessional-programs/pre-law)
- Pre-Nursing Certificate (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/preprofessional-programs/pre-nursing)

Individualized Major

Students who wish to design and follow a personalized program of study may create an individualized major. Individualized majors offer an alternative to traditional majors, and allow students to pursue educational goals that fall outside of existing departmental
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curriculum. In addition, individualized majors provide students with the opportunity to work across disciplines and to apply multiple disciplinary perspectives to an area of inquiry. Individualized majors emphasize innovation, creativity and originality and enable students to address new and evolving social, cultural, political, and scientific concerns. Students pursuing an individualized major are encouraged to include opportunities to gain real-world experience and professional development as a part of their major, including an internship or community-engaged learning activity. Individualized majors are appropriate for highly motivated students who are able to operate outside of existing structures.

All students pursuing an individualized major complete a senior project. This capstone project is the culmination of the individualized course of study and is an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, skills, and competencies gained in the prior course sequence. Students may participate in a senior seminar class in a related discipline with consent of the instructor, or pursue an independent study to complete this requirement. They should present a final project, presentation, or exhibition in consultation with their advisors. Senior project presentations and exhibits must be viewed and approved by individualized major advisors prior to graduation.

Some recent college majors include creative storytelling and cultural perspectives, deaf culture and child development, and critical public health studies. See examples of individualized majors (https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/individualized-major/individualized-majors-examples).