

# Undergraduate Program Definitions

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## Major

A major is a primary field of study within a baccalaureate degree program. Baccalaureate degree programs consist of a minimum of 120 semester credit hours (exclusive of physical education activity/basic health or orientation course requirements). Of these 120 minimum semester credit hours, at least 21 semester credit hours must be upper-division\* courses in the major field and at least 39 semester credit hours must be upper-division work overall.

## Emphasis

An emphasis is a sub-specialization within some major field of study and consists of at least 9 semester credit hours and no more than 17 semester credit hours of coursework with a minimum of 2/3 of the credit hours at the upper-division\* level.

## Concentration

A concentration is a specific sub-field within some major fields of study consisting of at least 18 semester credit hours of coursework with a minimum of 2/3 of the credit hours at the upper-division\* level.

## Minor

A minor is a secondary field of study distinct from the primary major. The intent of establishing minor fields of study is to offer students the opportunity to broaden their education through the minor field. A minor consists of 15 to 18 semester credit hours of coursework with at least 9 hours of upper-division\* courses. Courses taken to satisfy Core areas A through E may not be counted as coursework in the minor. Core area F courses may be counted as coursework in the minor.

Within the course work presented for the required minor in the B.A. programs or the optional minor in any bachelor's degree program, the student must have a minimum total institution GPA of 2.0, with no more than three credits of "D" work. A minimum of 9 credits must be earned at Georgia Southern University. Credit hours earned from an approved Georgia Southern University study abroad program may be used to satisfy the residential credits required for the minor.

## Certificates

A certificate is a concentrated set of courses within a particular field of study. Certificates consist of at least 9 semester credit hours and no more than 59 semester credit hours. Certificates may be embedded in a degree program or stand-alone. Embedded certificates are awarded upon completion of a degree program and are a self-contained set of courses within a major. Once completed, an official notation is made on the student's transcript.

\*Upper-division is defined as 3000 level or above courses.