Additional Programs

For information on the College Scholars program and departmental honors, please see the chapter titled Honors.

The Optional Minor

A minor is a program within a recognized area of knowledge offering students more than a casual introduction to the area but less than a major in it. Although the completion of a minor is not a degree requirement, students may elect to complete the courses specified for one or more minors. A student who completes all designated courses in a minor with a grade point average of at least 2.00 will have the minor entered on the transcript at the time of graduation.

Minors may be combined with any departmental major or interdisciplinary major, but minors may not be earned in the department or program of the major. Each minor must, however, include at least 15 credit hours that are being counted solely toward the minor. Courses may not be taken on a P/F basis if they are offered in the department of the minor or if they are being counted toward an interdisciplinary minor (see Academic Regulations).

Minors consist of a minimum of five courses of 3 or more credits each. Many minors require a greater number of hours and specific courses. When a minor is offered in a discipline that offers a major, only those courses that count toward the major may be counted toward the minor.

Students should declare their intention to pursue specific minors by completing forms available in the Office of the Dean as well as the various departmental and program offices. Departments and programs assign advisers to students who declare minors in their respective areas. Students have the responsibility to know and satisfy all requirements for minors that they intend to complete.

Changes to the minor may not be made after students begin the second semester of their senior year.

Optional minors are offered in the following fields:

- African American and Diaspora Studies
- American Studies
- Art
- Asian Studies
- Astronomy
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Chinese Language and Culture
- Classical Civilization
- Classics
- Communication of Science and Technology
- Communication Studies
- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Economics
- English
- Environmental Science
- Environmental and Sustainability Studies
- European Studies
- Film Studies
- French
- German
- History
- History of Architecture
- History of Art
- Islamic Studies
- Italian
- Italian Studies
- Japanese Language and Culture
- Jewish Studies
- Latin American Studies
- Managerial Studies: Corporate Strategy
- Managerial Studies: Financial Economics
- Managerial Studies: Leadership and Organization
- Mathematics
- Medicine, Health, and Society
- Nanoscience and Nanotechnology
- Neuroscience
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Portuguese
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Russian
- Russian Area Studies
- Scientific Computing
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Theatre
- Women’s and Gender Studies

*Administered by the School of Engineering in collaboration with the College of Arts and Science

Approved Minors Outside the College

A&S students are permitted to pursue a second major and/or a minor that has been approved by the faculties of the other Vanderbilt undergraduate schools: the Blair School of Music, the School of Engineering, and Peabody College of Education and Human Development. See the appropriate sections of the Undergraduate Catalog under each school for details. Minors may not be earned in the department or program of the major.

Senior Scholar Program

Under the Senior Scholar program, students may spend the entire senior year pursuing projects of their own devising. A project shall result in a finished document that constitutes material evidence that the time has been profitably spent in terms of intellectual development. Senior Scholars have presented a broad variety of projects, including documentary films, novels, and research monographs. Scholars work under the supervision of one or more faculty members, and the project is graded Distinguished, Pass, or Fail. Admission into the Senior Scholar program will normally waive major requirements for the degree. The program is directed by the Committee on Individual Programs. Juniors wanting to apply for this option may obtain further details from the Office of the Dean.

Undergraduate Research

All students have ample opportunity to participate in faculty research projects or to pursue research projects independently, both on campus and at remote sites. Such research has led to the publication of coauthored or student-authored papers and other presentations to the scholarly community. Summer research by undergraduates in all fields may be subsidized by the university.

Exchange Program with Howard University

Through an agreement with Howard University in Washington, D.C., a limited number of undergraduates in the College of Arts and Science may study at Howard for one semester (in exchange with Howard undergraduates who may spend a semester at Vanderbilt). This program is available to sophomores and juniors with an overall grade point average of 2.700 or a grade point average at this level in each of the two most recent semesters. Transfer credit is offered, as described under Study Abroad in the chapter on Special Programs for Undergraduates in the front section of this catalog. For more