

MAJORS AND MINORS

When you study a bachelor degree, you'll most likely need to complete a certain number of units in a specific area of study.

For example: students in a Bachelor of Commerce can choose to do a major in accounting, or economics or finance.

Some bachelor degrees don't need a major because the units have already been tailored to make sure you study a specific area. For example: a Bachelor of Nursing.

Did you know that at Deakin, you may be able to study a major outside your course? For example: a Bachelor of Arts student can complete a major in accounting.

What we will cover in this video:

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What are units?

A unit is just like a subject that you might have taken at school.

To pass a unit, there are certain requirements that you have to fulfil, like assignments, tests, practicals, exams and other types of assessments.

Key information:

- Units are the building blocks that make up each course here at Deakin.
- Each unit is worth a certain amount of credit points.
- Most units are worth 1 credit point, some are worth more than 1 and some are worth less.
- Each course requires a certain amount of credit points to be completed before a student can graduate from that course.
- Most full-time students take 4 units per Trimester but you may be able to study less or more than this amount.

Core units & Elective units

Here at Deakin, courses have two types of units. We have Core units and Elective units.

Core units are compulsory units which must be completed in order to complete a course.

Elective units are units which you can choose to study and can make up a major or a minor.

As an example, let's look at the Bachelor of Commerce Degree.

Image: Example: Bachelor of Commerce

- Year 1 divided into:
 - Trimester 1 with 4 boxes – 4 Commerce core units
 - Trimester 2 with 4 boxes – 4 Commerce core units
 - Trimester 3 with 4 boxes
- Year 2 divided into:
 - Trimester 1 with 4 boxes – 2 boxes from a Commerce major sequence, 2 boxes are potential elective units
 - Trimester 2 with 4 boxes – 2 boxes from a Commerce major sequence, 2 boxes are potential elective units
 - Trimester 3 with 4 boxes
- Year 3 divided into:
 - Trimester 1 with 4 boxes – 2 boxes from a Commerce major sequence, 2 boxes are potential elective units
 - Trimester 2 with 4 boxes – 2 boxes from a Commerce major sequence, 2 boxes are potential elective units
 - Trimester 3 with 4 boxes

This degree spans 3 years and requires 24 units to be completed in its entirety.

Of these 24 units, 8 are core units. Which means you have to study them.

You then need to choose another 8 units that form a Commerce major sequence.

This leaves you with 8 potential remaining elective units. With these units, you could complete a second major sequence ...

or two minor sequences ...

or a minor sequence and some mixed elective units. The choice is yours.

Unit Sets

A unit set is a group of units that can make up majors or minors or specialisations or professional recognition or practicums.

Unit sets can be identified by their unit set code.

Depending on your course you may or may not have to complete a major, however you may still have unit sets which are required for completion of your qualification.

What is a major?

Image: Major sequence: 2 columns, each column divided into 4 boxes (8 boxes in total). There are 8 boxes shaded with a book inside each box.

A major is a university recognised group of related units in an area of study or academic discipline.

A major allows you to build a level of expertise on a specific topic relevant to your future career goals or needs.

Here's some key information about majors:

- Some courses allow students to take more than one major.
- Major sequences are typically 6 or 8 units long.
- And depending on your course rules, you may be able to take a major from another Faculty if you have enough remaining elective units.

- Majors typically need to include at least 2 credit points in each of levels 2 and 3 of your course.

What is a minor?

Image: Minor sequence: 2 columns, each column divided into 4 boxes (8 boxes in total). There are 4 boxes shaded with a book inside each box.

A minor, like a major, is a group of related units in an area of study or academic discipline.

Minors are shorter than majors and are 4 units long.

Like majors, students can take a minor from another Faculty if they have enough remaining elective units in their course.

Unit levels

Each unit that you undertake will have a level to indicate the relative difficulty of the unit.

You can identify a level of a unit by the first number in its unit code.

Example: MLL213

A level 2 unit would indicate that the unit content is at a second year level.

Image: A pillar divided into 4 rows. From bottom to top, the rows indicate:

- Level 1 (1st year)
- Level 2 (2nd year)
- Level 3 (3rd year)
- Level 4 (4th year)

In undergraduate degrees, unit levels vary between 1 and 4.

If you're a first-year student, you will most likely complete level 1 units.

As you progress further into your degree, you will complete more advanced units.

*This information is a general guide only.

Contact Student Central or your Faculty Office for more specific information.

Major availability by campus

Deakin offers a wide range of study options and units.

If the major or unit you want to study is not offered on your campus, you may still be able to enrol through the Cloud Campus mode.

If you're an international student, you can study up to 25% of your units through our Cloud Campus mode.

Prerequisites and Co-requisites

At Deakin, to study some units, there may be some special requirements.

Prerequisite units must be completed prior to studying a unit.

Co-requisite units must be studied during the same enrolment period.

For more information about any of the topics covered in this video you can visit our University Handbook via the link on screen.

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/students/enrolment-fees-and-money/university-handbook/2017-handbook>

Credits

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