

# Revisions to Minor Policy

ICC approved by a vote of 10-0-1

# What

- Current Minor Policy D01.1 IIC
  - At least nine semester credit hours of the minor must consist of courses not required by the student's home program;
- Revised D01.1 IIC
  - At least nine semester credit hours of the minor must consist of courses not specified by the student's home program. Courses such as free electives, immersions, general education electives, professional electives, course options and tracks are not considered specified courses. These may be included in the minor and are not limited by the nine credit hour restriction.

# Problem

- Current minor policy is not applied uniformly across RIT due to the vagueness in the use of “home program”
- Some degree programs would like to use current minors as a guide for their students in creating focus areas
- Students that take the same courses may or may not be eligible for a minor depending on how courses are grouped

# Benefits

- Minors will be granted uniformly across all units and all students
- Any confusion as to what courses can count towards a minor will be greatly reduced
- More students will be able to complete a minor without adding time to their degree
- The ability to easily recognize a student's secondary area of focus by using minors is of valuable to employers
- Existing minors can be used to form areas of focus

# Costs/Harm

- Students
  - ICC believes there is no negative impact
- Units
  - Possible increase in students enrolling in minors

# Motion

Approve revisions to D01.1 IIC

# D01.1 MINORS POLICY

## I. Definition

A minor at RIT is a related set of academic courses consisting of no fewer than 15 semester credit hours leading to a formal designation on a student's baccalaureate transcript.

The purpose of the minor is both to broaden a student's college education and deepen it in an area outside the student's major program. A minor may be related to and complement a student's major, or it may be in a completely different academic/professional area. It is the responsibility of the academic unit proposing a minor and the unit's curriculum committee to indicate any home programs for which the minor is not a broadening experience.

In most cases, minors shall consist of a minimum of two upper division courses to provide reasonable breadth and depth within the minor.

## II. Institutional parameters

- A Minors may be discipline-based or interdisciplinary;
- B Only matriculated students may enroll in a minor;
- C At least nine semester credit hours of the minor must consist of courses not required by the student's home program;
- D Students may pursue multiple minors. A minimum of nine semester credit hours must be designated towards each minor; these courses may not be counted towards other minors;
- E The residency requirement for a minor is a minimum of nine semester credit hours consisting of RIT courses (excluding "X" graded courses);
- F Posting of the minor on the student's academic transcript requires a minimum GPA of 2.0 in the minor;
- G Minors may not be added to the student's academic record after the granting of the bachelor's degree.

## III. Development/approval/administration processes

- A Minors may be developed by faculty at the departmental, inter-departmental, college, or inter-college level. As part of the minor development process:
  - 1 prerequisites, if any, will be identified.
  - 2 students ineligible for the proposed minor will be identified;
- B Minor proposals must be approved by the appropriate academic unit(s) curriculum committee, and college curriculum committee(s) before being sent to the Inter-College Curriculum Committee (ICC) for final consideration and approval.
- C The academic unit offering the minor (in the case of interdisciplinary minors, the designated college/department) is responsible for the following:
  - 1 enrolling students in the minor (as space permits);
  - 2 monitoring students' progress toward completion of the minor;
  - 3 authorizing the recording of the minor's completion on student's academic records;
  - 4 granting of transfer credit, credit by exam, credit by experience, course substitutions, and advanced placement;
  - 5 responding to student requests for removal from the minor.
- D As per New York State requirements, courses within the minor must be offered with sufficient frequency to allow students to complete the minor within the same time frame allowed for the completion of the baccalaureate degree.

## IV. Procedures for Minor revision

It is the duty of the college curriculum committee(s) involved with a minor to maintain the program's structure and coherence. Once a minor is approved by the ICC, changes to the minor that do not have a significant effect on its focus may be completed with the approval of the involved academic unit(s) and the college curriculum committee(s). Significant changes in the focus of the minor must be approved by the appropriate academic unit(s) curriculum committee(s), the college curriculum committee(s) and be resubmitted to the ICC for final consideration and approval.