

DOUBLE MAJORS/DUAL DEGREES AND THE CLARKSON COMMON EXPERIENCE

The Clarkson Common Experience is intended to be exactly that – a common experience that is shared by students in all majors. Consequently, the general principle regarding double majors and dual degrees is that a student needs to satisfy the requirements of the Common Experience only once, no matter how many majors or Clarkson degrees the student is pursuing. However, the way in which the Common Experience is embedded in the curriculum sometimes makes it unclear how this general principle applies. The following tables address each Common Experience requirement.

TABLE 1 – COURSE-BASED COMMON EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Common Experience Requirement	Students with a Double Major/Dual Degree
2 Natural Science courses, at least 1 of which has an integrated laboratory component.	Need only a total of 2 Natural Science courses no matter how many majors/degrees (unless, of course, the majors require more).
2 Mathematics courses, including statistics and probability.	Need only a total of 2 Mathematics courses, including statistics and probability, no matter how many majors/degrees (unless, of course, the majors require more).
1 Technology course in which students apply technology to problems in order to gain an understanding of how technology is developed to serve humanity. These courses may come from any area of Clarkson, including from within the major.	Need only a total of 1 Technology course no matter how many majors/degrees. (Note that if both majors/degrees themselves include a required major course with the TECH designator, students will automatically get more than one TECH course.)
<p>1 Clarkson Seminar course. This is a writing intensive course that develops students' writing and critical thinking abilities.</p> <p>5 Knowledge Area courses that cover the following six Knowledge Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary and global issues, • Cultures and societies, • Economics and organizations, • Imaginative arts, • Individual and group behavior, • Science, technology, and society. <p>Students take a minimum of 5 courses in meeting this requirement, one of which must be an interdisciplinary University Course that addresses content in two of the Knowledge Areas. Knowledge Area courses may come from any area of Clarkson.</p>	<p>Need to take the Clarkson Seminar only once no matter how many degrees/majors.</p> <p>Need only a total of 5 Knowledge Area courses no matter how many majors/degrees. (Note that the specific requirements for some major curricula may result in students having more than 5 such courses.)</p>

TABLE 2 – OUTCOMES-BASED COMMON EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Common Experience Requirement	Students with a Double Major/Dual Degree
<p><u>Communication Requirement</u> – All students will develop written, oral and technological forms of communication within a variety of contexts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students take the writing-intensive Clarkson Seminar. • Students then take additional courses that carry either 1 or 2 communication points. Students earn 6 communication points beyond the Clarkson Seminar, 2 of which must come from 300- or 400-level course(s) in their major. Courses must meet criteria <i>re</i> amount of communication, extent of feedback and opportunity for revision, and course pedagogy to earn communication points. 	<p>Need to take the Clarkson Seminar only once no matter how many majors/degrees.</p> <p>Need only a total of 6 Communication Points no matter how many majors/degrees, but these must be distributed so that there are at least 2 points from 300- or 400-level course(s) in each one of the majors/degrees. (Note that some majors have many required courses with Communication Points, and so students in these majors will as a matter of fact be credited with more than 6 total points and/or more than 2 points in the major.)</p>
<p><u>Information Literacy Requirement</u> – Every Clarkson bachelor’s degree program will provide students with opportunities to gain expertise in using information technology and computational software appropriate to their major field of study. The Clarkson Common Experience Committee reviews and approves departmental plans for achieving this outcome.</p>	<p>This Information Literacy requirement is a feature of the major curriculum itself, so students who satisfy graduation requirements in the major will automatically satisfy the Common Experience Information Literacy requirement. This will not be tracked for the individual student.</p>
<p><u>Professional Requirement</u> – Every Clarkson bachelor’s degree program will include learning outcomes involving professionalism, professional ethics, and diversity in the workplace. These outcomes will be distributed across required courses in the major.</p>	<p>The Professional Requirement is a feature of the major curriculum itself, so students who satisfy graduation requirements in the major will automatically satisfy the Professional Requirement. This will not be tracked for the individual student.</p>

Professional Experience – All students will participate in a project-based professional experience following the first year. This experience must emulate professional work in the students' field, for, example, appropriately structured co-ops, internships, directed research, and community projects.

As a first principle, students must meet all of the graduation requirements for all of their majors/degrees. Take, for example, the ways in which the following four program areas meet the Professional Experience Requirement. In Engineering, all students must have ES499, Professional Experience (0 credits), on their transcript; in Business, all students must have SB310, Internship (0 credits); in Mathematics all students must have MATH499, Professional Experience (0 credits); and in History, all students must have SS480, H&SS Research Seminar (3 credits).

So, a Math and ME double major will have to have both ES499 and MA499 on his/her transcript, and a Business and History double major will have to have both SB310 and SS480 on his/her transcript.

Note, however, that departments have complete discretion as to what experiences/work students need to do to get these transcript entries. For example, a Math/ME student can propose a single experience to both departments – say an internship involving computational models for analyzing the stresses in mechanical devices – and get the ES499 recorded by the ME department and the MA499 recorded by the Math department. Nevertheless, there may be combinations of majors in which students will just have to do two things – for example, it is hard to think of a single experience that would count both as the SB310 internship and the SS480 research seminar – but with some imagination it might be possible even then to have the different experiences relate to each other – in the case of SB310 and SS480, for example, the student might encounter an issue during the internship that could be the topic of the research project done in SS480.