	Page # 1 of 2	Section: A	Policy #: S-53
	Approval: <i>Dr. K. Q. A. J. [Signature]</i>		Date: 03/2016 Review by: 03/2019
	Date Revised: 03/2016		
	Policy/Revision Submitted by: Arts and Science Committee		
SUBJECT: Definition of Academic Major and Academic Minor			

I. POLICY: Academic Major and Major Concentration; and Academic Minor and Minor Concentration: Definitions and Requirements.

Academic Major refers to the academic discipline in which a curriculum of prescribed courses leads to an undergraduate baccalaureate degree. A major is a program of study offering both depth and breadth in a particular discipline or field of study.

The academic major is considered a defining and dominant characteristic of the undergraduate degree. The requirements and the curriculum for a major are determined by the academic department faculty offering the major with the appropriate approvals of the Methodist College Faculty Congress, Academic Council, Vice President of Academic Affairs, President of the College and the Methodist College Board of Directors.


Methodist College requires a minimum of 30 semester credit hours of prescribed courses in a specific discipline to complete a baccalaureate degree.

Academic Major Concentration

A major may offer concentrations, areas of specialization within the field of study. If offered, the academic department may determine if a concentration is an optional or required component of the major. Generally, students complete a portion of the core major requirements and then select focused courses to complete the concentration. A concentration must include a minimum of 21 semester credit hours of specialized coursework.

Academic Minor:

A minor is a program of study, with less depth than a major. It may be completed to complement, or as an addition to a major. A minor has a minimum of 15 non-core semester credit hours required by a major and a maximum of 18 non-core semester credit hours. The requirements and the curriculum for a minor are determined by the academic department faculty offering the major with the appropriate approvals of the Methodist College Faculty Congress, Academic Council, Vice President of Academic Affairs, President of the College and the Methodist College Board of Directors.

 Methodist College UnityPoint Health	Page # 2 of 2	Section: A	Policy #: S-53
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Methodist College students electing an Arts and Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences, or Math and Sciences minor can meet with an advisor from participating faculty to help guide them in choosing a minimum of 15 credit hours (six lower division credit hours, nine upper division credit hours) or a maximum of 18 semester credit hours (six from the lower division and 12 from the upper division of courses in each of these disciplines to fulfill the minor. For the minor, the student can only transfer 6 credit hours from another institution.

A minor must be an elective choice—a student cannot be required to complete one as part of the requirements for a major. If a course is a requirement for a major for which a student applies at graduation, it cannot qualify also for minor credit.

A maximum of six transfer credits can be applied toward an academic minor.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Department of Arts and Sciences at Methodist College has proposed two new minor concentrations for undergraduate student. The addition of a minor field of study necessitated defining major fields of study as well as major concentrations of study and their requirements. It is also likely that substantive changes for additional major concentrations in the Health Sciences major will be submitted to HLC.