

PM 93-05
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President Robert C. Detweiler

Distinction Between BA and BS

Upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate (EPC 92-15), the following university policy is effective for all new proposals for BA and BS degree majors.

Subject area and content and the number of units required to complete the degree are determining factors in the distinction between the BA and BS degree.

The BS may be an appropriate degree for any field that is clearly scientific, technical or professional and in which the required unit load limits electives outside the major and/or precludes a minor. Majors leading to a BS generally require more science, technology or professional training than those leading to a BA. A major leading to a BS is generally more specialized than a BA and is more likely to serve explicitly as preparation for graduate or professional education. The BA generally represents a more broadly based education, whereas the BS is more likely to serve explicitly as preparation for graduate or professional school.

If a licensing or accrediting agency governing a given field makes a distinction between the BA and the BS or requires a higher number of units than those normally required of the BA, the BS will be the appropriate degree.