TRACKING YOUR GPA IN THE MAJOR: A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

1. University policy states that you MUST have a **GPA of 2.0 or higher in the major** to graduate. (You must also have an **overall GPA of 2.0 or higher**.)

2. The University will calculate your GPA in the major when you submit your Graduation Petition. When you fill out this application, you will be required to indicate your major and your concentration. All courses required for your declared major and concentration must be included on the application, including any electives used to meet the upper-division unit requirement (36 for the BS; 24 for the BA) for the degree.

3. If you took extra electives in the major that you don’t need for graduation, do not put them on your Graduation Petition. Here is where you can pick or choose. If you need 6 units of electives and you took 9, only include the courses with the highest grades. This will boost your GPA in the major as calculated for graduation.

4. Once you turn in your graduation petition, the University will calculate your GPA in the major as follows:
   - Grades in your lower division classes (e.g. BIO 1, BIO 2, CHEM 1A, PHYS 5A, etc.) WILL NOT be used (though they must be on the petition because they are required for the major).
   - All upper division courses (100 or above) WILL be used. For Biological Sciences majors this will be mostly BIO and CHEM courses.
     - If you are in the Forensic Biology concentration, you will also have 6 upper-division CRJ units.
     - A few upper-division classes in Departments other than BIO and CHEM may be counted toward the major. (See the online Catalog.)

5. If you’ve repeated a course, the grade from the **first repeat** will be used in the calculation (whether or not it’s better!); subsequent repeats end up with averaged grades.
   - Example: You took BIO 184 in Spring 2013 and got a D+. You repeat the course in Fall 2013 and earn a D. The D will be counted, not the D+. If you repeat the course a second time and get a C, the D+/D/C grades will be averaged in the GPA calculation.

6. You cannot repeat more than 28 units. Likewise, you can’t Withdraw from more than 18 units. Let’s get real, folks!

7. The major GPA is not easy to find on your student record, nor is it always in the same place. Usually it is found on the Academic Requirements page. Scroll down until you get to the upper division requirements and under one of the headings (if you’ve taken UD courses) you'll see it say something like "required: 2.0, actual: 2.4".
   - This will include all upper division courses in the major that you have taken to date. If you repeat some of these courses or decide to replace them (assuming they are electives) with other courses, the calculation will change. **Remember that, ultimately, only the upper division courses required for your major and concentration that are included on your graduation petition will be used by the University to determine whether you have met the “2.0 or higher in the major” criterion for graduating.**

8. If you are a junior or senior and your current overall GPA is 2.5 or lower, it’s likely that your GPA in the major is below 2.0. Don’t be an ostrich with your head in the sand! **Get advising** and figure out how to fix the problem before it’s too late!