

# PL- ACADEMIC-023: Curriculum Framework

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## Source / Authority

This policy was developed by the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and endorsed by the University President.

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs is responsible for overseeing and monitoring the implementation of this policy.

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## Purpose

The purpose of the curriculum framework policy is to establish a standard curriculum framework for the design of high quality academic programs appropriate to higher education.

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## Who Should Know This Policy

- President
- Vice President
- Legal Advisor
- Dean
- Director / Departmental Head
- Faculty
- Accounting/ Finance Personnel
- Student
- All Employees

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## Policy Description and Definitions

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Qatar University aims to offer high quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs that embody a coherent course of study appropriate to higher education and designed to provide quality education while fulfilling the university mission. All degree programs are designed to accomplish predetermined objectives and to equip students with a predetermined set of learning outcomes.

All undergraduate degree programs offered at the university shall be structured according to a standard curriculum framework and shall contain a minimum of 120 Credit Hours. In addition to the general education component that shall contain a minimum of 30 Credit Hours, each undergraduate degree program curricula shall be defined by some combination of the curriculum components defined below.

All post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level degree programs shall contain a minimum of 30 Credit Hours and require the completion of a number of courses and a comprehensive exam, thesis, and/or project.

Detailed description of specific graduate and undergraduate degree programs may be published in the University Undergraduate and the University Graduate Catalogs.

The standard curriculum framework for academic programs and the Curriculum components composing an academic program are defined below.

### **The Standard Curriculum Framework for Academic Programs:**

An academic program is a cohesive arrangement of courses and experiences designed to accomplish predetermined objectives and to equip students with a predetermined set of learning outcomes. Academic programs leading to a degree must include:

- A minimum of at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level;
- A minimum of at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level

An academic program is more than just a major, it may also include different curricular components including minors, concentrations, and packages. An academic program may or may not lead to the awarding of a degree, diploma, or certificate. Academic programs leading to a degree must demonstrate consistency and coherence in course sequencing, increasing complexity, and linkages between and among program curriculum components.

### **Major:**

A major is a curriculum component of an academic program intended to provide in-depth study in a discipline or a professional field of study. A major includes a set of core required courses which are considered to be the basic foundation courses of an academic area. A major may include courses in other disciplines that support studies in the major provided that the total number of credit hours allocated to these courses does not exceed 50% of the major credit hours requirements. A major may also include a set of elective courses to provide more breadth in the academic area as well as internship, field experience, thesis, or other performance requirements as deemed necessary. A major may or may not define different areas of emphasis within the major called concentrations. Majors define the student's primary area of study and require the completion of a defined set of courses and credit hours. However, the exact courses, credit hours, and other requirements for each major will vary. An outline of these requirements for each major is included in the university catalog.

### **Minor:**

A minor is a curriculum component of an academic program intended to provide a limited depth and/or breadth study in a discipline or a professional field of study. Its main objective is to provide students a fair measure of expertise and knowledge in an additional academic area. Thus, the content of a minor within a specific academic program may or may not be directly related to the program major. Minors require the completion of a defined set of courses and credit hours. However, the

exact courses, credit hours, and other requirements for each minor will vary. An outline of these requirements for each minor is included in the university catalog.

**Concentration:**

A concentration is a focused component of a major that creates a curriculum emphasis within the major. A concentration may include required and elective courses. Concentrations require the completion of a defined set of courses and credit hours. However, the exact courses, credit hours, and other requirements for each concentration within a major will vary. An outline of these requirements for each concentration is included in the university catalog.

**Package:**

A package is a collection of courses grouped within one package based on some rationale such as courses addressing the same competency or same knowledge domain. Packages may be used to structure an academic program, a major, a minor, or a concentration.