

Policy Number	126 001
Policy Title	Second Bachelor's Degree
Responsible Officer	University Registrar
Responsible Office	Office of the Registrar
Summary	This policy outlines the policies and procedures for awarding a second bachelor's degree.
Approving Body	Academic Council; Administrative Council
Approval Date	01.14.2022 (Aca C); 01.28.2022 (Admin C) 03.20.2026 (Aca C); 02.18.2026 (Admin C)
Last Revision	January 2026
Re-evaluation Date	Fall 2027
Departmental Impact	All Academic Areas

Failure to follow the following policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment.

Policy Statement

Second bachelor degree students will be subject to the same graduation requirements as all other students, viz., they will have to complete satisfactorily an approved degree program including a minimum of 120 semester hours with at least 30 new credits of CIU credit. The program also must include at least 3 credits of practical skill development (internship, practica).

Previous credit from CIU and other accredited degree granting institutions as well as assessed learning may be credited toward a second bachelor's degree up to a limit of 90 credits. Also note that graduate-level work that has already been applied to an earned master's degree cannot be used for second bachelor's degree. A second bachelor's degree must meet a significantly different educational objective from the first degree. A minimum of 150 total semester hours must be earned in order to be awarded two bachelor's degrees.

Rationale

Occasionally, people who already hold a bachelor's degree from Columbia International University (CIU) or from another institutions seek to enroll for a second bachelor's degree at CIU. Potential students who seek to enroll for a second bachelor's at CIU should first consider that other approaches may be preferable. They should consider whether they might be better served by seeking to enroll in an appropriate master's program or by taking a traditional course or sequence of courses or by enrolling as non-matriculated students at CIU.

In some cases, however, potential students will be aware of alternatives and still choose to seek a second bachelor's degree. For these students, this policy is in place.

Policy Procedures

Students who complete a CIU bachelor's degree must reapply for admission if they wish to pursue a second bachelor's major. Students pursuing a degree lower or equal to the one already earned at CIU or another institution are not eligible for the federal Pell grant or any state aid and may have limited loan eligibility. Institutional aid for second degree students is not guaranteed; any consideration of institutional scholarships may be made on a case by case basis and is subject to availability. Students are encouraged to contact the Financial Aid Office before enrolling in a second bachelor's degree program.

Hyperlinks

www.ciu.edu/policy