

FAQs for non-Science Students Taking Science Courses / Declaring Science Major (as Second Major) or Minor

1. How do I enroll in the course offered by the Faculty of Science, for which special approval is required?

If you wish to select our BSc course(s) in any one of the following scenarios:

- you have not met the pre-requisites of the course (scenario #1)
- there are timetable clashes with other selected course(s) (scenario #2)
- the course cannot be found in the optional course list for online selection (scenario #3)

you have to seek the written approval* from the Course Selection Adviser (CSA) of the course offering school(s)/department(s) (<https://www.scifac.hku.hk/ug/current/advising/bsc/cs-advisers>) on your application letter and submit the duly signed letter to your HOME Faculty during the course selection or add/drop period. The staff from your HOME Faculty will then add the course(s) for you online.

Please also be reminded that:

- (a) if you wish to select courses with timetable clash (scenario #2 refers), you need to seek approval from the CSAs of both courses (if the courses are offered by the same school/department, then one signature is enough); and
- (b) the granting of course approval in any one of the above-mentioned scenarios #1 - #3 does not guarantee that you can successfully enroll in your intended course. When the number of students applying the quota course is greater than the quota, seats will be allocated by the computer ballot system. Remember to keep checking your enrollment status online during the course selection or add/drop period.

*Note: For any student who wishes to seek special approval for taking courses offered by the School of Biological Sciences (e.g. BIOL courses), you need to seek the written approval from both the relevant Course Selection Adviser and the course coordinator.

2. What should I do if a course is required in my primary major and the minor offered by the Faculty of Science?

Double counting of credits is not permissible for major-minor or double-minors combinations. When the disciplinary core course is required ('must take') both by the major and minor or by both minors, you must take a replacement course for the minor. The replacement course should be the disciplinary elective in the minor and must have the same prefix and at the same or higher level as the course to be replaced.

In this connection, you are required to submit the self-explanatory application letter for taking the specified replacement course in your intended Science Minor, with the written endorsement from the Course Selection Adviser of the Minor concerned, to the Faculty of Science Office for approval during the course selection or add/drop period. You are reminded to state clearly the courses (code and title) you wish to apply for exemption and replacement in your application letter. Should the approval for course exemption and replacement be granted, you need to submit a copy of your duly endorsed application letter to your HOME Faculty for record.

The contact details of Course Selection advisers of Science Majors/Minors can be found from the Faculty of Science website (<https://www.scifac.hku.hk/ug/current/advising/bsc/cs-advisers>).

3. What should I do if a course is required in my primary major and the second (Science) major? Can I double-count the credits of course(s) required in double majors?

Double-counting of courses up to a maximum of 24 credits is permissible with double majors. Credits to be double-counted must be for courses required ('disciplinary core') by both majors. For cases with 24 or less double-counted credits, you must make up an equivalent number of credits in your second (Science) major by taking other courses offered by any Faculty and no application for course exemption and replacement in the related Science Major/Minor is required.

If more than 24 credits are listed as required courses ('disciplinary core') in both the first major and second (Science) major undertaken by you, you must make up the number of credits above the 24 permissible by taking replacement course(s) in the second (Science) major. The replacement course(s) must be the disciplinary elective course(s) in the second (Science) major and have the same prefix and at the same or higher level as the double-counted course(s). In this case, you need to submit your self-explanatory application letter for course exemption and replacement, with the written endorsement from the Course Selection Adviser of the Science Major concerned, to the Faculty of Science Office for approval during the course selection or add/drop period. Should the approval for course exemption and replacement be granted, you need to submit a copy of your duly endorsed application letter to your HOME Faculty for record.

The contact details of Course Selection Advisers of Science Majors/Minors can be found from the Faculty of Science website <https://www.scifac.hku.hk/ug/current/advising/bsc/cs-advisers>.

For student taking the Mathematics related majors/minors, please take note of the specified exemption and replacement arrangement under the section 'Students taking double Majors, Major-Minor or double Minors with overlapping course requirements' at <https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry>.

4. Do I need to take any replacement course if the disciplinary core courses in double majors or major-minor or double minors are mutually exclusive?

Yes, you need to submit your application letter for course exemption and replacement, with the written endorsement from the Course Selection Adviser of the Science Major/Minor concerned, to the Faculty of Science Office for approval during the course selection or add/drop period. Please also note that the replacement course should be the disciplinary elective in the 2nd major/minor concerned and have the same prefix and at the same or higher level as the course to be replaced. Should the approval for course exemption and replacement be granted, you need to submit a copy of your duly endorsed application letter to your HOME Faculty for record.

The contact details of Course Selection advisers of Science Majors/Minors can be found from the Faculty of Science website (<https://www.scifac.hku.hk/ug/current/advising/bsc/cs-advisers>).

For student taking the Mathematics related majors/minors, please take note of the specified exemption and replacement arrangement under the section 'Students taking double Majors, Major-Minor or double Minors with overlapping course requirements' at <https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry>.

5. How can I seek an advanced standing for any Science courses I completed in my previous study?

Regarding any application for granting of advanced standing credits of Science courses, it should be processed via students' HOME Faculty. Your HOME Faculty, upon receipt of your application, will seek comments from the relevant course offering schools/departments for further consideration. You will be informed by your HOME Faculty of the application result. For details of application procedures, you are advised to check from your HOME Faculty.

6. Can all the courses listed in the SIS - program guide (SIS – Enrollment – Enrollment Add Classes) for online course selection fulfill the requirement of my declared Science major(s) and/or minor(s)?

The program guide in SIS will list out all the courses you can take in the selected semester. Before selecting any course in SIS, please view the “Quick Guide on Course Selection and Enrollment” posted on the SIS at http://intraweb.hku.hk/reserved_1/sis_student/sis/reference-materials/Quick_Guide_on_Course_Selection_and_Enrollment.pdf for information.

Please note that NOT all the courses listed there can be used to fulfill the curriculum of your declared Science major(s) and/or minor(s). You are strongly advised to select the radio button for “**Show Requirement Details**” at the top of your program guide before selecting your desired courses. By choosing “Show Requirement Details”, you will then view the reminders that:

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Not all the courses listed below can be used to fulfill the curriculum of the <Science major/minor>. Select only those courses according to the curriculum structure of this <Science major/minor>. Please click here to view the [curriculum structure of this <Science major/minor>](#).

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The link provided in the program guide will then direct you to the curriculum of your declared Science major/minor according to your intake year. Please note that the curriculum checking for graduation will only base on the curriculum structures of Science majors and minors at <https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry> to check whether you can fulfill the course requirement of your declared Science major(s) and/or minor(s).

Should you have any query about the fulfillment of course requirement of any Science major/minor, you are strongly advised to visit <https://webapp.science.hku.hk/sr4/servlet/enquiry> for the updated syllabuses. If you are still in doubt about the fulfillment of course requirement of your intended/declared Science major/minor, you are strongly advised to contact the relevant [Course Selection Adviser](#) and/or the Faculty of Science Office for timely advice.