

COMMITTEE ON MAJORS

The Committee on Majors was created in 2000 to oversee major programs in Yale College, a responsibility that previously fell to the Course of Study Committee. The committee has a threefold objective:

1. To gain a broader perspective on all programs and majors so that it can better understand how each one seeks to meet the educational objectives of undergraduates both within and outside the major;
2. To gain some sense of how the departments distribute their instructional and advising resources;
3. Through regular reviews of the majors, encourage each department and program to reflect on the particular needs, problems, and goals of its undergraduate curriculum, which can change over time, and provide a vehicle for making recommendations to the faculty and dean of Yale College.

Reviews of majors occur on a regular cycle, but a department or program may request a review, especially to coincide with other strategic planning in the department, and such requests are welcome. In advance of each review, the secretary of the committee provides the DUS, Chair, faculty, and students with an overview of the review process, as well as the questions the committee wishes to see addressed by the department or program in the form of an online survey. Ordinarily, the surveys are returned to and reviewed by committee members in preparation for separate group meeting with students, faculty, and the Chair and DUS. This is an opportunity for the various parties to explain the program in more detail and answer questions that members of the committee may still have.

The committee recognizes that the faculty of the department have primary responsibility for overseeing its undergraduate curriculum and major requirements, and the committee seeks to work in partnership with the department to identify any needs and make recommendations to support the department's goals. The chair and the secretary of the Committee on Majors always stand ready to help a director of undergraduate studies prepare a presentation. So far, these periodic reviews have proved interesting and rewarding both to the committee and to the directors of undergraduate studies. For 2025–2026, the secretary of the Committee on Majors is David Francis (david.francis@yale.edu).

Changes to the major and new major/certificate proposals must be submitted to the committee secretary by the end of the fall term to be considered for implementation in the following academic year.