

## how **2** guide: Pursuing an Academic Minor

In Career Development Services, students periodically ask us whether adding a minor will enhance their future career/employment prospects. While most employers do not perceive an academic minor to have nearly the same value as a major in a specific area, there may be times when the minor can help. Here are some examples:

### FOCUS

Students can add a minor to help **focus** their qualifications by gaining specific training and knowledge in an area that may not have been covered extensively in the major. Examples:

- Adding a **Real Estate** minor to a **Finance** degree to help prepare for a career in real estate development.
- Adding a **Journalism** minor to an **English** degree to prepare for a career in journalism or news reporting.

### ENHANCE

Student can **enhance** their qualifications by adding a minor that is complementary to their major based on their career goals. Examples:

- Adding a **Management** minor to an **English** degree to help break into the publishing industry.
- Adding a **Philosophy** minor to a **Legal Studies** degree to help prepare for law school.

In most cases, it is important that you do not assume that employers (or graduate schools) will automatically see the value of your minor. It is up to you to communicate to the prospective employer, through the cover letter and during the interview process, how your minor makes you a more qualified and a better candidate.

Sometimes students like to add a minor (or minors) to help **diversify** their qualifications. The intent is to gain additional knowledge and training in a specific area, although in most cases it is not clear to the student what role the added minor will play in their overall career pursuits. (Some students feel like the minor gives them a “fall back” strategy, but again, employers may not value the minor as they would a major.)

**Below is a list of Minors offered by FGCU for the 2010-11 Catalog Year**

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising                      | <input type="checkbox"/> History                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> African Diaspora Studies         | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Systems and Operations Mgt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anthropology                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Interdisciplinary Studies               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Journalism                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bioengineering                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Latin American Studies                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biology                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Management                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning & Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Information Systems     | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Theory                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Science                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earth and Space Science          | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Studies                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Engineering        | <input type="checkbox"/> Software Engineering                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Studies                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Florida Studies               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global Studies                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish                                 |