Special Major

Baccalaureate students may plan and gain approval for a special major involving work in two or more departments when no existing major or double major meets their academic needs. Special majors are to consist of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 15 courses (48-60 credits), with at least half of the courses (24-30 credits) numbered 3000 or above. The Special Major Petition form with complete instructions and requirements is available on the Office of the Registrar Forms page.

Special majors require the approval of the University Curriculum and Policies Committee. Petitions must be submitted to the Baccalaureate Subcommittee of the University Curriculum and Policies Committee at least one year prior to graduation, but the planning for a special major should begin with the student's academic advisor in the first or second year of school.

Special Major - Engineering

St. Catherine University does not offer a major in engineering; therefore, students interested in engineering typically submit a petition for a special major in Applied Chemistry or Applied Physics and participate in the University's dual degree program with Washington University in St. Louis, MO. The dual-degree plan is designed to educate engineers who are more broadly prepared to meet the increasing concern and involvement of engineering with the social, economic and environmental problems of today's world.

Students start planning their program with a pre-engineering advisor when they arrive on campus. In the dual-degree program, students typically spend three years at St. Catherine University and then transfer to the engineering school for their last two years. Upon satisfying the graduation requirements of both schools, students receive two degrees: a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science from St. Catherine University and the engineering degree from Washington University.

In addition to the traditional dual-degree program leading to the bachelor's degree in engineering, it may be possible to enter directly into a master degree program after completing the pre-engineering preparation. Requirements vary and the master's degree is not necessarily the one that leads to professional licensure. Details should be discussed with the pre-engineering advisor.