

Guidance for Energy Business and Finance students pursuing the Business Fundamentals Certificate through the Smeal College

Summer 2017

The Smeal College of Business has recently decided to allow students majoring in Energy Business and Finance to enter their Certificate in Business Fundamentals program. Previously EBF students had been restricted from entering this program. This document is intended to answer some frequently asked questions for EBF students interested in the Business Fundamentals Certificate.

Question: How do I get the Certificate? What are the requirements?

Answer: You can enter the Certificate program via LionPATH's Update Academics menu, just like adding a major or a minor. The requirements for the Certificate are given at the program's home page: www.smeal.psu.edu/business-certificate.

EBF advisors and advisors in the Ryan Family Student Center cannot answer questions about the Certificate curriculum. All curriculum questions, or questions about how to sign up, should be directed to the Certificate advising staff at sbc@smeal.psu.edu.

Question: Will the Certificate count for the minor requirement for the EBF General Option?

Answer: No, the Certificate does not meet EBF General Option degree requirements. If you would like to earn a Smeal minor as an EBF student, we recommend the Supply Chain and Information Sciences and Technology minor. The EBF program will allow the SCIST minor to count as an approved minor for the General Option.

Question: If I am an EBF major, will this Certificate make my resume look better?

Answer: The personal opinion of the EBF program chair is that students should take minors and certificates that either develop a complementary skill or are in a subject area that students find interesting. If the Certificate courses look interesting to you, then the Certificate may be worthwhile. As a resume enhancer, a minor in science/engineering, math/statistics, foreign language or supply chain is probably a better option.

Question: Can I use Certificate courses towards EBF degree requirements?

Answer: None of the four Prescribed Core Courses for the Business Fundamentals Certificate (BA 301, BA 302, BA 303, BA 304) can be used to meet EBF degree requirements or will substitute for required EBF courses. They can, however, be used as free electives. The Business

Fundamentals Certificate requires either BLAW 243 or IB 303, both of which are EBF degree requirements.

Question: Can I use an EBF course towards the Certificate?

Answer: Please contact scbc@smeal.psu.edu with any questions about the Certificate curriculum. Neither your faculty advisor nor the Ryan Family Student Center advisors can answer this question.