

FOR THE STUDENT:

Applying for an INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED MAJOR

In the College of Letters and Sciences

This major is designed to permit you to focus your study on a topic or problem area which falls outside the limits of a conventional major. Each major is individualized. What is deemed appropriate for you may be deemed inappropriate for another student.

The purpose of the major is to accommodate an integration of the courses and programs currently offered by the University; it is not a means of forming special majors or degrees which the University is not authorized to offer. The Individually Designed Major, leading to the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree, must consist of an approved and coherent pattern of courses taken in more than one department.

Options

The Individually Designed Major (IDM) offered by the College of Letters and Sciences provides you the opportunity to design your own major program based on one of the following options:

OPTION I: A 33 credit major which may include **no more** than 21 credits in any one department, and **must** include at least 17 credits in courses numbered 300 or above.

(A regular minor program is required)

OPTION II: A 54 credit major which may include **no more** than 24 credits in any one department, and **must** include at least 27 credits in courses numbered 300 or above.

(No minor is required)

Special IDM Requirements

To ensure that the IDM meets the same standards of quality and focus as the conventional major programs, the IDM has the following special requirements:

- Fifty percent of the credits in the major must be earned after the major is approved
- The major should be approved prior to the beginning of the junior year.
- More than half the credits in the major must be earned in the College of Letters and Sciences.
- No more than 40 of the total credits earned for the degree may be from any one department.

In addition, you must meet all the University requirements for graduation and all the College requirements for the B.A. or B.S. degree.

The IDM program also requires all graduating majors to submit an ePortfolio that documents their learning across the program and to complete an exit interview with the program coordinator.

APPLICATION PROCESS

If you decide to pursue an Individually Designed Major, take the following steps:

1. Choose an advisor with expertise or background in your area of interest. The advisor must be from the College of Letters and Sciences, but you may also have a co-advisor from another college.
2. Define your goal(s). With your advisor, articulate your goal(s) and formulate a rationale for the proposed major. Usually this will require some discussion between you and your advisor. Once your educational goal is well defined, you can develop the specific programs.
3. Design your program. With your advisor, select courses for the major that will best meet your personal educational goals as well as the learning objectives that are required for all individualized majors (see below). You may find it helpful to consult with appropriate faculty members from the various departments.

Student Learning Objectives - All students completing an individually designed major will be able to demonstrate:

- Breadth and depth of knowledge in two or more disciplines.
- Ability to think critically and analytically.
- Inquiry, problem-solving, and/or creative skills as appropriate to the specific subject matter and disciplines represented in the program
- Written and oral communication skills that meet or exceed campus expectations for competency, and conform to the norms of the disciplines represented in the program.
- Information literacy and/or computer technology skills appropriate to the specific subject matter and disciplines represented in the program.
- Advanced ability to integrate and apply these skills and knowledge to challenging intellectual and/or real world problems – usually demonstrated in a capstone integrative learning experience.

Note that your program must include an integrative or experiential learning element such as a senior thesis, undergraduate research, internship, or study abroad; these experiences may be credit-bearing or extra-curricular.

Also required, but not counted in the credit minimums for these majors, are:

- An approved writing intensive course such as ENGLISH 370, ENGLISH 371, ENGLISH 372, BIOLOGY 200, or POLISCI 302.
 - A one-credit ePortfolio capstone seminar (LSINDP 498), taught by the advisor or program coordinator.
4. Write a goal(s) statement and rationale. In consultation with your advisor, write a goal(s) statement and rationale for the major so that the purpose of the major is clear to you, to your advisor, and to the IDM Committee. This written statement will help keep the program on track as you progress. You should include a comment about your employment objectives or educational plans after graduation, and should describe how the IDM satisfies your needs better than one of the traditional majors offered by the University. The rationale should also explain how each course or group of courses included in the major relates to the goal of the major.

In addition, decide on a title for your major.

5. Assemble the application package that includes the following items:
- A completed the Individually Designed Major Application Form.
 - Your goal(s) statement and rationale.
 - A current Academic Advisement Report (AAR). If you are a recent transfer student, provide a copy of your transcripts from other institutions.
6. Submit your program for approval. When you have assembled everything, have your advisor sign the IDM Application Form. Then submit the complete package to the Assistant Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences.

The Individually Designed Major Committee will either approve the program or return it to you and your advisor with suggestions. The Assistant Dean or the committee will be happy to meet with you or with your advisor if you request a meeting.

Once an IDM program is approved it is, in effect, a contract between you and the IDM Committee. Any changes in the program must be recommended by your advisor and approved by the IDM Committee. (As with any other major program, you are free to "switch majors" if you so decide.)

**APPLICATION FORM
INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED MAJOR
COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCES**

NAME: _____

ID NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Phone Number: () _____ - _____

Alternate Number () _____ - _____

TITLE OF MAJOR: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Anticipated Date of Graduation: _____

On a separate sheet, provide a goal(s) statement and rationale for your major. Include in your rationale statement a comment about your employment objectives and/or/ educational plans after graduation. Explain how the Individually Designed Major satisfies your needs better than one of the established majors offered by the University, and explain how each course or group of courses included in the major relates to the goal of the major.

Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor's Name: _____

Department: _____

Office Phone: _____

IDM Approved: _____ Date: _____

Assistant Dean/ Chairperson, IDM Committee

Application Form for the Individually Designed Major, p. 2

Name: _____ ID. #: _____

Title of Major: _____

Choice of Options (check one):

_____ Option I: A 33 credit major plus a minor program. May include **no more** than 21 credits in any one department, and **must** include at least 17 credits in courses numbered 300 or above.

_____ Option II: A 54 credit major. No minor program is required. may include **no more** than 24 credits in any one department, and **must** include at least 27 credits in courses numbered 300 or above.

List below all courses to be taken in the major, grouped by department.

- If you wish, you may list possible course options, but so indicate.
- For courses already taken, list the grade. For course in progress, put an "X" in the grade column.
- Be sure to include an integrative or experiential learning element (credit or non-credit).

Department	Course No.	Course Title	Credits	Semester Taken	Grade
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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Name: _____ ID #: _____

Department	Course No.	Course Title	Credits	Semester Taken	Grade
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Additional requirements

Writing Intensive course:

Department	Course No.	Course Title	Credits	Semester Taken	Grade
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

ePortfolio Capstone:

<u>LSINDP</u>	<u>498</u>	<u>ePortfolio Capstone</u>	<u>1</u>	_____	_____
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If you chose Option I, provide the title of your minor: _____