

Individualized Major

Would you like to design your own major?

A student-designed Individualized Major can be a great way to build bridges between disciplines, appealing to your own interests by making connections in a meaningful, academically rigorous fashion. It can also permit you to concentrate in an area of study too uncommon to support a regularly-offered major.

Requirements

The Individualized Major must be a coherent program of study that crosses disciplinary lines by combining courses from at least two disciplines. Any Individualized Major should adhere to the same principles of breadth, depth, and liberal arts-centered inquiry that the faculty has established for existing majors.

Specific requirements include:

- At least 8 and no more than 14 credits
- No more than 8 credits from the same disciplinary prefix
- At least 3 upper-division credits and at least 3 lower-division credits
- At least one Writing-Centered credit
- An integrative senior capstone

If the Individualized Major is a second major, no more than 50% of the coursework in your first major may be counted towards it.

Process

How Do You Design Your Own Major?

You must submit a proposal for the Individualized Major no later than the end of your sophomore year—or, if you have transferred in more than 12 credits, no later than the end of your first semester at Willamette. *Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis if you are declaring an Individualized Major as a second major, or under other extraordinary circumstances. Students seeking an exception should consult with the Faculty Associate Dean for Curriculum.*

Your major proposal must be developed with, and endorsed by, two tenure-track faculty members from different disciplines represented in your major curriculum. One of the Faculty Associate Deans or the Dean of the CAS must also endorse your proposal. These three individuals will form the major advisory committee, with one of the disciplinary representatives serving as committee chair and as your advisor. In order to ensure a thoughtful and considered process, by the middle of your sophomore year you should begin speaking with professors whose teaching and research interests support the kind of major you are envisioning. If you are unsure which professors might be helpful to you, speak with the department or program chairs whose curricula you are intending to draw from. It's important to remember that while the major proposal comes from *you*, it should nonetheless be developed with the guidance of faculty familiar with the areas you wish to study.

Admission to the major is granted through the submission of a proposal to the Academic Programs Committee, which may further consult with the Academic Council before approval is granted.

Over time, some more frequently-proposed Individualized Majors will be pre-approved by the faculty. If you are choosing to declare one of these pre-approved majors, and are proposing no variations to the curricular template provided, you may submit your completed paperwork directly to the Registrar's office. If you are suggesting variations to a standard template, or designing an entirely new major, you must submit your proposal to the CAS Deans' Office (Smullin 108).

A completed proposal for a pre-approved (templated) major requires:

- A completed application form, with signatures (p. 3);
- A copy of the relevant template; and
- A chart laying out your course plan for your final four semesters in college (p. 4).

For majors that propose modifications of an existing template, you will need:

- A completed application form, with signatures (p. 3);
- A copy of the relevant template;
- A chart laying out your course plan for your final four semesters in college (p. 4);
- A proposed list of courses you will use to satisfy major requirements; and
- A narrative explanation of the modifications you are requesting (both on p. 5);
- An unofficial transcript.

For entirely new majors, or ones that modify the template, you will need:

- A completed application form, with signatures (p. 3);
- A chart laying out your course plan for your final four semesters in college (p. 4);
- A narrative explanation of your proposed major, including a set of learning outcomes (p. 6);
- A proposed list of courses you will use to satisfy major requirements (p. 7);
- An unofficial transcript.

Individualized Major Proposal Application form (required for all majors)

Date:

Name:

ID number:

E-mail address:

Anticipated graduation date:

Anticipated number of credits at the end of this semester:

Current advisor:

Present major(s), if any:

Present minor(s), if any:

Do you intend to keep these if your Individualized Major proposal is approved?

Title of your proposed Individualized Major:

Advisory Committee Chair:

Printed name

Signature/Title

Secondary Advisor:

Printed name

Signature/Title

Dean or Faculty Associate Dean:

Printed name

Signature/Title

Plan for remaining coursework (required for all majors)

	Fall	Spring
Sophomore		
Junior		
Senior		

Summer or co-curricular experiences that will enhance the major:

Individualized Major Modification Proposal (required for modified templates)

Please list all the courses included in your proposed major, following as closely as possible the format and order used in the original template

- If you have already completed a particular course, provide the grade you earned
- If you will be using a class to satisfy any other requirements—gen ed, another major, etc., please indicate this

Please describe the changes you are proposing to the existing template. Provide an explanation of your special academic interests or circumstances, and why they require these modifications.

New Individualized Major Proposal (required for fully self-designed majors)

Please provide a detailed description of your special academic interests and an explanation of why they cannot be addressed via an existing major, or combination of a major and a minor. Include a discussion of your educational and/or professional goals, and the role the major will provide in the fulfillment of these goals.

What are the learning objectives of this major?

Course Listing

Please list all the courses included in your proposed major, adhering to the following guidelines:

- To the extent possible, list classes alphabetically by prefix
- Classes may be specifically required, or elective (“one class chosen from the following three”)—indicate which is the case
- If you have already completed a particular course, provide the grade you earned
- If you will be using a class to satisfy any other requirements—gen ed, another major, etc., please indicate this

You may find it helpful to model the structure of your list on one of the templated majors.