

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED MAJOR COLLEGE OF LETTERS OF 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. 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 now 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.

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

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 the courses for the major that will best meet your educational goal. You may find it helpful to consult with appropriate faculty members from the various departments.

The courses (including both those already taken and those not yet taken) should be listed on the IDM Application Form. Application forms can be obtained from the Assistant Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences or online at UWW.edu.

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 Individually Designed Major Application Form.
 - Your goal(s) statement and rationale.
 - A current Advising Report (AR). 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.)