
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES OPTION: THE INDIVIDUALIZED MAJOR

In the event that no single major alone satisfies a student's career goals, he or she may, with the advice of two faculty, propose an individualized major that meets all of the standards of a college major but is composed of courses from two or more majors. These standards are given below.

INDIVIDUALIZED MAJOR STANDARDS

The plan must be approved by the University's Curriculum Committee, according to the following standards. Students will complete an application showing how they meet these standards. Application materials may be found online or at the Enrollment Center.

Length

Students will be asked with the consultation of two faculty to design a major of at least 48 semester hours, with one concentration of at least 16 hours taken from one major. At least half of the courses should be at the 300 level or above. Only two directed studies will be permitted over and above the capstone project described below.

Faculty Supervision

Students may propose an individual major on any subject matter that permits coherent, in-depth study using resources available through the University, and that does not duplicate an existing program. Two faculty from different departments must read and approve the proposal and agree to advise the student throughout the plan. One of the faculty should be from the concentration, and both should agree to read and evaluate the final project. If there is no one on University faculty with sufficient expertise in the proposed major, students will need to find someone with recognized expertise in this field to be a third reader of the final project.

Foresight

Students' proposals must be approved by the Curriculum Committee after at least 20 hours of the general education requirements have been met and before half of the proposed major courses have been taken. Applicants should have a "B" average in their general education requirements.

Coherence

The plan must be organized around a central theme and substantial enough in content to meet the aims of college study. It should also have a theme from Maharishi Science of Creative Intelligence or Maharishi Vedic Science connecting the interdisciplinary theme to life as a whole.

Range of Knowledge

The plan should provide for a) a foundation of skills, concepts, and methods appropriate to the proposed area of study; b) study of leading thinkers in the field; c) a planned opportunity to apply one's knowledge and skills to real world problems and issues or to complete a substantial research project; and d) knowledge of SCI or Vedic Science relevant to the theme.

Capstone Project

The major will include an integrative project to be completed in a two-block capstone course pursued at the end of the plan. The project is a sustained, focused exploration of a selected topic supported by the plan, using methods appropriate to the subject, and permitting reflection on and creative use of material encountered earlier in students' studies. The project may take any form, including, for example, laboratory, field, or other empirical research; a substantial essay or research paper; a performance, panel, or public presentation; a community program; a web site, or some other form that you choose. Projects in all formats must be supported by appropriate independent research and a bibliography of works cited. They must include a section relating the project to the Science of Creative Intelligence or Vedic Science. All performance and media projects must include a written rationale, criteria for evaluation, and a self-evaluation at the end according to the criteria.

Digital Portfolio

When students' majors are approved, they will create and maintain a web portfolio through Taskstream (currently \$69 for two years) or similar web portfolio manager that allows them to share their work with their professors and to reflect on their progress. The portfolio should include a major project, paper, or exam from each of their courses, together with each professor's evaluation of the work, so that later professors can see previous work and evaluations. Every semester, students must submit to their portfolio a reflection on their progress toward their program goals, at the same time they create objectives for the next semester.