

## Individual Major Make a Gift

Home >

### Program Description

The individual major is for students who want to chart a truly original path through the Gettysburg Curriculum by designing their own course of study.

Individual majors are integrated, interdisciplinary, self-designed majors that combine coursework and other experiences from at least two departments or fields with other experiences such as internships and off campus study.

To design your own major, you must develop a concept focused on a problem, question, or area of investigation of special interest to you that cannot be adequately addressed within a single department or discipline. You will submit an essay explaining your concept and proposing the courses through which you will explore it to the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee. Faculty sponsors from the departments you are combining will work with you to help you polish your proposal and to advise and guide you through your course of study.

-  [download pdf](#)
- [Program Requirements](#)
- [Interdisciplinary Studies website](#)

### Program Requirements

Your proposed major must be an integrated plan of study that incorporates course work from a minimum of two departments or fields. In addition, a self-designed major generally includes:

- twelve courses, no more than two of which may be at the 100-level;
- three or more courses at the 300-level or above;
- a designated methods course;
- and a 400-level individualized study capstone taken during the senior year.

Please follow the Individual Major Application Form link below for details on these and other guidelines.

After consulting with a member of the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee and meeting several times with two prospective sponsors/advisors, students should submit their proposals to the Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies by the deadline for the final meeting in March during their sophomore year.

Normally, to be accepted as an individual major, a student should have a 2.5 overall GPA. Students should be aware that a self-designed major program may require departmental methods or theory courses and additional advanced coursework particular to each of the fields within the program. It is often

possible to build a significant internship or component of off-campus study into your major. Your capstone will demonstrate the interrelationships among the fields and experiences comprising your major.

**ONCE YOU ARE ACCEPTED:** If you wish to make changes in the course list after the IDS Committee has approved the proposal, you must submit a "Request for Course Changes" form to the IDS Committee. This form must be signed by both sponsors indicating their approval of the request. If the IDS Committee approves the request, we will notify the Registrar. Rising seniors will be notified at the end of the summer if their approved course list for their major and courses taken/registered for do not correspond. In such cases, rising seniors must submit a course change request (found online) by the first IDS Committee meeting in the fall. Failure to do so constitutes the lack of a graduation plan and could delay your graduation date. Students must pass, retaking if necessary, all courses approved for their major; otherwise a new course list must be approved by the IDS Committee. For students applying for individual majors in Fall 2013 and after, the grade requirement for the designated methods course will go from C- to C. Failure to earn a C or better in the designated methods course also requires that students must re-propose their major with a new methods course and capstone.

The senior thesis (IDS 464 Individualized Study--Research capstone) must be worked out with the sponsors and at least provisionally approved by the IDS Committee by the end of the junior year. A student going abroad that semester should submit a proposal prior to departing. Since your proposal must be approved before you can register for IDS 464, the lack of at least a provisionally approved proposal constitutes a lack of a graduation plan, which is reason to delay your graduation date. A capstone cannot be conducted in the same semester that it is approved.

A student may graduate with Honors from the individual major program. Honors designation requires a high GPA (as calculated at the end of the seventh semester), the endorsement of an advisor/faculty member, and a 464 Project which is deemed to be outstanding by the project sponsor when the Committee is ready to request an evaluation.

---

[Students](#)

[Faculty](#)

[Employees](#)

[Alumni](#)

[Families](#)

[Visitors](#)

[Employment](#)

[Directory](#)

[News](#)  
[Calendars & Events](#)  
[myGettysburg](#)  
[Giving](#)  
[About this Site](#)

[Email via the Web](#)  
[Moodle](#)  
[CNAV](#)  
[Student Center](#)  
[Library](#)  
[Bookstore](#)  
[Mobile](#)



[Gettysburg College](#)  
300 North Washington Street  
Gettysburg , Pennsylvania 17325  
717.337.6300

[Back to top](#)

© 2013 Gettysburg College. All Rights Reserved