

Individual Major Application Instructions

Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies, Gettysburg College

Please read the following instructions carefully before completing and submitting your application for an individual major. Incomplete or incorrectly completed applications may result in unnecessary delays.

Demographic Information

Complete this section by providing the requested information. Provide your GPA as of the completion of your last semester of work at Gettysburg College, select your intended graduation year, and provide the names and department affiliations of two faculty members who have agreed to supervise your project.

- **Choosing your advisors.** You should select your major advisors carefully, and only after meeting with each advisor personally to discuss your application and your plans for the major. The IDS Committee also strongly encourages you to discuss your plans with a member of the IDS faculty. You may choose to select a member of the IDS faculty as one of your advisors, though this is also not required.
 - **Primary advisor:** Your primary advisor is just that: your primary major advisor. This person should have expertise in one of the disciplines that serves as the core of your major or should have expertise in a field related to the theme of your major. S/he should also be someone you are comfortable working with, and who is willing to mentor you not only through the process of applying for the major but also through your remaining time at Gettysburg. Though your primary advisor is not required to be your capstone advisor, this is often the case.
 - **Secondary advisor:** Like your primary advisor, your secondary advisor is responsible for helping ensure that you complete your degree requirements on time. Your secondary advisor can also be a valuable source of support and encouragement, and, most important, can stand-in for your primary advisor should your primary advisor not be available. Major changes to your program of study or capstone plans should be cleared with both advisors before they are submitted to the IDS committee.

1 Title

Your title cannot be more than 40 characters in length—it needs to fit on your transcript! Plan accordingly, and make it snappy.

2 Tweet It!

One of the first things you'll discover after becoming an individual major is that everyone is going to ask you: "What are you majoring in?" To assist you in answering that question, and to ensure that you

get quickly accustomed to describing your major in a concise way, we want you to start now. Write a short description of your major in 240 characters or fewer. You'll thank us later.

3 Endorsement

Before you submit your application to the IDS committee it will need to be endorsed by both of your advisors. They can sign your application electronically, or you can print the application, have them sign it, and then scan it again so it can be submitted. The chair of Interdisciplinary Studies will sign your application after it has been approved to indicate its acceptance.

4 Proposed Course Plan

This is where the rubber meets the road: enter the list of courses you have selected to comprise your major. Remember the following guidelines as you construct your list:

- Your major will consist of twelve courses, combined to form a coherent curricular whole;
- Your total program of study cannot contain more than two courses taken at the introductory (or 100) level, and must include at least three advanced (300-level) courses, not including the capstone (IDS 464);
- You must include one methods course in your course plan; the methods course you choose should be based on the form you expect your capstone project to take;
- You may include up to three courses taken off campus (for example, in a study-abroad program) in a single semester, or up to four taken over two semesters away from campus.

You'll need to provide the following information to the committee:

- The department and course number of each course (ex.: Education 199)
- The full course title (ex.: Foundations of Education)
- The semester in which you *plan to take* or have *already taken* the course (ex.: S19, F20, etc.)
- The name of the professor who most frequently teaches, or most recently taught, each course. If you're unsure, enter "U"; if the course rotates among several faculty, enter "V."
- The last semester the course was offered (ex.: F17, S15, etc.)
- In the **blue box** under each course, please provide a brief, one-sentence rationale for your selection. What will this course contribute to your major? Why did you select it over other alternatives?

5 Questionnaire

Please provide full and complete responses to each of the four questions on the questionnaire. Please check the box to indicate if you would like to schedule a meeting with the IDS committee. Note that you may be asked to meet with us if we have questions about your application or would like to discuss your plans with you.