

## Individualized Major College of Arts and Sciences Drake University

Students with well-defined educational goals that do not exactly fit within any of the major fields listed in the catalog may submit a proposal to pursue a combination of existing courses as an individualized major. The major should be a separate and distinctive program of study that demonstrates well-developed goals, not simply a combination of courses. The formal proposal must set forth:

1. A statement which describes the student's goal and the relevance of the major.
2. A list of the objectives the student hopes to achieve.
3. A list of the courses to be included in the program of study.
4. A preliminary description of the proposed capstone project.
5. A statement of how these courses and projects will lead to the realization of the objectives.

The proposed program of study must form an integrated whole and must include a minimum of 32 hours of coursework, of which 20 hours must be upper level (courses numbered 100 or above). An independent study or a capstone project must be planned for the senior year.

The student's written proposal is reviewed by two faculty advisors, who are chosen by the student. Once the major is approved, the student will complete the program under the direction of these advisors. Any changes made after the initial approval must be reviewed and approved by the advisors and the Associate Dean.

### **Special Notes:**

Individualized majors must be planned and approved before the second semester of a student's junior year. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Associate Dean, especially for transfer students.

All other requirements for a degree from the College of Arts and Sciences, such as general education requirements and number of upper level hours, must be met in every student's overall academic program.

### **Procedure:**

1. Make an appointment with your current academic advisor, who may be able to direct you to an existing program that fits your goals. If no established major works, discuss some of your ideas for an individualized major.
2. Prepare a description of the individualized major that you will submit to your advisors and the Associate Dean. This description will cover the five points listed above. The following guidelines might represent a proposal:
  - **Section 1:** three or four paragraphs of general description and rationale and a list of four-eight electives.
  - **Section 2:** A semester by semester list of courses taken (which apply to the major) and courses projected for the following semester.
  - **Section 3:** A discussion of how each of the objectives will be met by the proposed courses.
  - **Section 4:** A description of the capstone project and how this project can serve as an experience that integrates and synthesizes the coursework and goals of the major.
3. Submit your proposal to your advisors for discussion and possible revision. Once the signatures of the advisors are obtained, submit the proposal to the Associate Dean for approval. Any later amendments would go through the same approval process.

