

INFORMATION FOR FACULTY AND DEPARTMENTAL ADVISORS

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED INTERDEPARTMENTAL MAJOR (IDIM)

The Individually Designed Interdepartmental Major allows students to fulfill the major program requirement for the BA degree through completion of an interdepartmental program of coursework focused on a theme of their own choosing, developed in consultation with faculty and staff advisers. Students initially work with an IDIM adviser to develop a major program proposal that consists of a written statement explaining the student's academic goals and a list of courses proposed for the major.

Program Design

Thematic unity is a basic requirement of the IDIM program. A program's theme is indicated by an appropriate title, for example "Performance Arts and Aesthetic Theory," "East Asian Media Cultures" or "Cultural Pluralism in America" (this title will appear on the student's transcript once the degree has been conferred). Program coursework must include 3 or 4 areas of study related to this central theme. Each concentration area must include at least 11 credits of closely integrated courses at the 3/5xxx-level either from within one department (e.g., philosophy courses focused on ethical, political, and social issues) or from more than one department (e.g., an interdisciplinary concentration titled "Film History" with courses from the Art History, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies and French departments). A total of 50 semester credits, with a minimum of 40 credits at the 3/5xxx-level, is required in the major.

IDIM programs must strike a balance between breadth and depth. Practical "hands-on" learning must be based upon and balanced by appropriate theoretical and methodological coursework. Students select courses by becoming familiar with departmental offerings in the undergraduate catalog, by consulting with their IDIM advisers, and by consulting with faculty or advisers within individual departments. Some departments require that one or more core courses be included in an area of concentration; information regarding these requirements is available to students from the IDIM advisers.

Program Review and Approval Process

After the content and presentation of the proposal are approved by the IDIM advisers as meeting program standards, the proposal is reviewed by the IDIM Proposal Review Committee, which meets once a semester. After the committee grants preliminary approval, the proposal is then reviewed and endorsed by advisers for each area of concentration. While some departments have designated one faculty member or professional adviser to review all IDIM proposals, other departments prefer that referrals to faculty be made according to the interests of the student and the specific focus of the area of concentration. Students with interdepartmental areas of concentration are referred to faculty advisers with related interests and academic work. Ordinarily the three faculty members approving the major also serve as advisers for the student's IDIM senior project.

Please contact the IDIM advisers (612/624-8006) if you have any questions about the IDIM program, especially concerning the role of departmental advisers at the various stages of the program-planning, approval, and degree completion process.

CLA Individualized Degree Programs

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