Individualized Interdepartmental MAJOR Proposal Form

Name__________________________________________ Class__________ Student ID#_____________________ Gender _____
E-mail_________________________________________ CPU # ___________________________________________
Home address ____________________________________________________ Cell Tel# __________________________

Title of proposed major: ________________________________________________

**A.** List, by department, the courses you propose to take in your major. No more than eight courses (32 credits) from one department may be included in the Core.

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<th>Dept. name</th>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit hours</th>
<th>Semester / year</th>
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Supplementary courses (optional):

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Which two of the courses will you take to fulfill the Upper-level Writing Requirement?

________________________________________  ______________________________

Names of two faculty members who will serve as your advisers:

Print name of faculty adviser (1)  Signature of Faculty adviser (1)  Faculty adviser dept.  Date

Print name of faculty adviser (2)  Signature of Faculty adviser (2)  Faculty adviser dept.  Date
B. Rochester Curriculum Registration

Students are expected to pursue substantive and integrated study in each of the three divisions. Completion of a major, a minor, or a Cluster with an average grade of C or better meets that goal. All students need to complete at least one major in one of the three divisions and one Cluster in each of the other two.

*Primary Writing Requirement* (check one):

- _____ completed WRT 105 with grade of C or better in ______________ semester
- _____ will take WRT 105 in ______________ semester
- _____ other: _______________________________________________________________________

In which division does this major belong?  
Humanities  Nat’l Sciences/Engineering  Social Sciences

Do you intend for this major, if approved, to satisfy one of the College Requirements?  yes  no

*Indicate how you plan to fulfill your Rochester Curriculum requirements:*

Division of Humanities

- major ___________________________________
- or  minor ________________________________
- or  Cluster title _________________________ and number __________________________

Division of Social Sciences

- major ___________________________________
- or  minor ________________________________
- or  Cluster title _________________________ and number __________________________

Division of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering

- major ___________________________________
- or  minor ________________________________
- or  Cluster title _________________________ and number __________________________

C. If you think that you may participate in the Interdepartmental Honors Program, please indicate below the 3 core major courses which your faculty advisers have recommended as honors courses:

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

D. Multidisciplinary Studies Center review

Reviewed with: _______________________________ (Adviser)  on _______________ (date)  

signature
Proposal essays

Please attach additional sheets to respond to the following questions. Expressing your program clearly and concisely is an important factor in the approval process.

*You are strongly recommended to consult with your faculty advisers, as well as with advisers in the Multidisciplinary Studies Center in writing these essays.*

When reviewing proposals, the Committee takes all of the elements into account: title of proposed major, courses, faculty letters of recommendation, essays. Proposals with poorly written essays will not be approved.

The first two questions can generally be answered in about a paragraph. The third essay is usually about two pages long:

1. Although the Committee will judge your program on the basis of its academic merit, the Committee also serves in an advisory role. Please briefly discuss your long term educational and career goals.

2. Discuss why these goals cannot be achieved within an existing departmental major, or within a combination of a departmental major and a minor and/or certificate.

3. How do you propose to integrate the courses you have listed into a unified course of study? Explain how you propose to make your major more than just a series of courses in different departments.

*The third essay is the most important part of your proposal.* You need to give details about the courses you have taken, as well as those you have not taken. Explain how the courses will form a major, by relating each course to the larger picture. You may compile information on courses you haven’t already taken from past and current course descriptions, and most important, from your faculty advisers. Your notes and course syllabi from courses already taken are valuable resources.

Read the general handout on interdepartmental majors for more information.

The application process

- Application deadlines for new or revised proposals: November 1 and April 1. Individualized majors and minors must be approved no later than the first semester of the senior year.

- A completed application consists of:

  1. Your proposed course list. Be sure that you have the correct department name, course number, and title. A major normally consists of 10 core courses or 40 credit hours. You may include one to four supplementary courses if you wish.

  2. Your three essays, as described above.

*It is essential that you review your essays with your faculty advisers and an academic adviser in the Multidisciplinary Studies Center (Lattimore 203) prior to submitting your proposal.* Help is also available from the Writing and Speaking Center.

  3. Two faculty adviser recommendations. Your advisers will indicate their support to the Committee on Individualized Interdisciplinary Programs by completing a recommendation form, available in Lattimore 203. *Give them the forms at least two weeks in advance of the deadline.*

  4. Submit the “Overlap Declaration Form” if you also plan to complete another major or minor.

  5. *At least two weeks prior to the proposal deadline,* schedule an appointment to review your proposal with an Adviser in the Multidisciplinary Studies Center. (585) 276-5305
6. The Committee’s response letter will be mailed to your CMC box and to your UR email address.

Rev. 1/17