

Proposal for Individualized Interdepartmental Divisional Cluster

Last Name First Name M.I. Class Student ID #

Phone Number _____ Local Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address _____@u.rochester.edu **Major(s)** _____

Officially declared / Intended
(Circle one)

Distribution Area. Check one:

- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Natural Sciences and Engineering

Minor(s) _____

Officially declared / Intended
(Circle one)

Name of Cluster: _____

Course Number	Title	Semester	Instructor
(e.g., PHY 103	Physics of Music	Fall '10	Einstein)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

On an attached page:

- explain the intellectual coherence of the three courses you are proposing, and how they relate to each other;
- tell why your goals cannot be achieved through an existing Cluster.

Names of two faculty members whose approval you have received, and their signatures:

Print name of **faculty member (1)** Print name of **faculty member (2)**

Signature of faculty member (1) Signature of faculty member (2)

Signature of Student Date

Approved _____ Rejected _____

Signature of Chair, CIIP Date

(leave blank - Cluster number)

Thinking about the Individualized Interdepartmental Divisional Cluster Option...

What is a Cluster? A cluster is a set of three or more related courses (worth at least 12 credit hours) within a single division that is approved as a set. The College Curriculum Committee has approved a great many departmental clusters as well as a variety of interdepartmental clusters.

Has a Cluster already been approved that matches your interests? Be sure you have checked the courses that interest you in the Cluster Search Engine at: <http://www.rochester.edu/College/CCAS/clusters>. You may find what you're looking for, or you may find something close. If it's the latter, talk to the undergraduate adviser in the department that established or administers the Cluster to review your options. After talking to her or him, you may find that an existing Cluster is closer to your interests than you thought.

What if you want a Cluster composed of courses within a single department? Talk to the undergraduate adviser in that department about the feasibility of establishing a new Cluster through the Curriculum Committee. Departments also have the prerogative to recommend a waiver or modification of an existing Cluster for an individual student by submitting a request to the Curriculum Committee; check with the department for its policy.

When may you propose an individualized interdepartmental Cluster?

- As soon as you feel comfortable about your major. ***Note that a Cluster proposal cannot be considered official until the student has been officially admitted to the major***, and the balance of the Rochester Curriculum has been declared.

How do you propose an individualized interdepartmental Cluster?

- Talk to your advisers and the faculty members who are teaching the courses that you want to include. Take with you a list of the courses that you have already considered for inclusion in a Cluster, along with your grades in each of the courses that you have completed. (Remember, you will need at least a C average over the three approved courses.)

- Think about the goal of your Cluster. Be sure that the courses you've selected are relevant to your goal and are related to each other. Make sure that the courses you still need to take (if there are any) will be offered before you graduate. Independent Study courses (courses numbered 390 through 395) that you wish to include should have been completed or be formally in progress.

- Courses must be from three different departments. Be sure to check the "parent" course listing at the Registrar's website <https://cdcs.ur.rochester.edu/>

- Make an appointment with an adviser in the Multidisciplinary Studies Center (MSC) to discuss your proposal.

- Draft your essay. Ask the faculty members to review your draft, which should be no longer than 250 words. If they support your proposal, ask them to sign this proposal form.

• ***Proposals are due November 1 and April 1.*** Take the completed essay and this form after you, too, have signed it, to the Multidisciplinary Studies Center in Lattimore 203. The Committee on Individualized Interdepartmental Programs will review your proposal (mid-November and mid-April) and notify you of its decision by mail.

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