

# SELF-DESIGNED MAJOR GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

Self-Designed Majors are intended for disciplined and highly motivated students who are clearly focused in their interests. These majors reflect the College's recognition that not every student's area of special interest will always fall neatly within the bounds of a single discipline as traditionally defined.

The Self-Designed Major is not intended as a way for a student to avoid the intellectual focus and methodological rigor required in the normal departmental major or to avoid certain difficult courses within majors. It should not be used to concentrate work in a narrowly pre-professional way. On the contrary, by successfully completing the courses and integrative research project that constitute the Self-Designed Major, the student is expected to achieve a depth of focused reflection and understanding at least comparable to that of a traditional major.

## I. General Guidelines for Proposals:

- A. The Self-Designed Major must be a coherent, interdisciplinary approach to an academic topic or area, rather than an accumulation of courses. A brief descriptive title should specify that topic or area.
- B. The goal of any Self-Designed Major is the in-depth study of a particular area, rather than an overview of several academic fields. The Self-Designed Major should help students achieve the same degree of expertise or specialization as a conventional major.
- C. Reasons for proposing a Self-Designed Major should include intellectual growth and professional goals.
- D. The Self-Designed Major should include both introductory and upper-level courses in its constituent departments. Introductory courses should generally be taken in advance of more specialized courses.

## II. Requirements for the Self-Designed Major:

- A. The student must have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.33 or better to propose a self-designed major and must be in his/her sophomore year.
- B. The proposal must include a rationale for choosing a Self-Designed Major rather than a conventional major.
- C. The Self-Designed Major must include courses from at least three academic departments, all related to and converging on the theme of the Self-Designed Major.
- D. The Self-Designed Major must total at least sixty-four (64) semester hours, including the two-course semester hour. At least thirty-two (32) hours must be 300-level or above.
- E. The proposal must include a plan for a two-term 8-semester hour independent research project, to be undertaken in the senior year. An independent project integrating the major is preferred. The title and goals for the independent project must be specified in the proposal.
- F. The Self-Designed Major must include the names and signatures of three sponsoring faculty, one from each academic department. The student will select one from among the three to serve as the director who will serve as an advocate for the student in the approval process. The Director will also serve as the student's faculty advisor.
- G. Any changes in the Self-Designed Major must be submitted on a Self-Designed Major Amendment Form (on Student Records website) to the Office of the Dean of the Faculty with all signatures and dated.

## III. Procedures for the Self-Designed Major:

- A. Students must submit the proposal to the Office of the Dean of the Faculty by March 1st of their sophomore year. With the proposal, students must submit a current transcript and a detailed letter of support from the Director of his/her Self-Designed Major.
- B. The Associate Dean of College of Liberal Arts will forward the proposal to the Chair of the Curriculum Committee (CC) for scheduling at a future CC meeting.
- C. The CC will consider the proposal, make a determination, and inform the student as to whether the proposal has been accepted or rejected.

# SELF-DESIGNED MAJOR PROPOSAL FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ R-Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Local Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Filed: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Semester Credits Earned: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Standing: Freshman Sophomore Junior

CUM G.P.A. \_\_\_\_\_ Current Academic Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please provide a concise descriptive title of your **Self-Designed Major** to be included in your permanent record:*

*Please indicate the academic departments to be involved in your **Self-Designed Major**.*

Director's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor 1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor 2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond to the following questions in your proposal (attach additional pages if necessary).

*Why do you wish to pursue a Self-Design Study Major instead of a conventional major?*

*What do you intend to do after completing it?*

*Why have you chosen the departments indicated and the particular courses chosen?*

*What are the goals and plans for your independent research project?*

# SELF-DESIGNED MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY

List the courses (by department) you propose to have included in your Self-Designed Major. Show by course number and title, and indicate with an "X" those courses already completed.

**DEPARTMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

Course #	Title	Completed - "X"
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**DEPARTMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

Course #	Title	Completed - "X"
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**DEPARTMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

Course #	Title	Completed - "X"
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**RELATED ELECTIVES:** \_\_\_\_\_

Course #	Title	Completed - "X"
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Senior Project Title** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Faculty Sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Representative of \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CC: Signature of Associate Dean \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

of the College of Liberal Arts: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Any changes in this Self-Designed Major proposal must be submitted on an Amendment Form (available on the Student Records website) with all signatures and dated. The Amendment form should be submitted for review and approval by the Dean or Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts or an authorized representative of the Curriculum Committee (CC).