Individually Designed Major

Program Director: Joseph Lennon, Ph.D.
Office Location: 105E Saint Augustine Center
Telephone: 610-519-4647
IDM Application

About

An individually designed major (IDM) is motivated by the learner's own goals and guided by a roadmap that the student develops in close consultation with faculty. Unlike an independent study, where a faculty member takes the lead in preparing a set of readings and assignments, an IDM places the primary responsibility on the learner to identify the goals, explicitly define periodic assessment benchmarks, and construct a long-term plan of study.

An objective of IDM is to foster a more explicit pursuit of interdisciplinary study, providing a mechanism for you to design a major that will intentionally integrate different methodologies, topics, disciplinary cultures, and learning styles.

Faculty members and the established programs and departments within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) serve as resources for the students. Students must be highly motivated and independent learners in order to pursue this course of study, which is only viable if existing majors and minors do not provide a pathway to the learner’s goals. Lastly, and crucially, these goals must be articulated early in the student’s college career by the end of the first semester of sophomore year.

MAJOR (33 credits)

An Individually Designed Major (IDM) is motivated by students’ own learning goals, and guided by a curriculum map that you will develop in consultation with faculty mentors, the Associate Dean, and the IDM committee.

This is not a series of Independent Study courses, wherein a faculty member takes the lead in developing a reading and writing program for students. Rather, faculty members and the established programs and departments within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (henceforth, LAS), function as collaborative resources for students to pursue a defined course of study. This is only allowable if no established majors are able to provide a pathway for students to achieve their stated goals.

The IDM provides an interdisciplinary mechanism for students to design a major that will integrate different methodologies, topics, disciplinary cultures, and learning styles.

Program: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Type: B.A. OR B.S.