

## Memorandum

To: EPCC and Dean Griffith  
From: Murphy Waggoner  
Subject: Changes to Special Major  
Date: 11 September 2008

Although we take great pride in our departmental majors, we also understand that great ideas may transcend traditional departmental boundaries. We currently have a Special Major that allows students to design their own interdisciplinary major. These proposals are intended to make this interdisciplinary major accessible to those few highly-motivated students each year whose interests lie in a particular theme or well-defined question that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries.

For example, a student interested in the question of sustainability might work with faculty in the biology, chemistry, philosophy and economics departments, while a student who is interested in biopsychology would work with faculty in science and psychology. Other examples include a student who wants to be an actuary and would work with the faculty in mathematics, accounting and economics, and a student who wants to major in classical studies would work with faculty in foreign language, history and philosophy.

The changes proposed remove some contradictory language, add the requirement of a capstone experience for the major, provide for an administrative structure which serves an advisory role in helping students develop an interdisciplinary major proposal and formalize the process of choosing academic advisors for the interdisciplinary major. The language, procedure and requirements in the proposal are comparable to those used at other institutions with active student-designed interdisciplinary major programs. The proposals also include the addition of three courses to the curriculum, IDSt 380, IDSt 385 and IDSt 398, to allow for independent study, capstone and research experiences that fall outside the areas of our current departments.

The new Independent Interdisciplinary Major is reserved for students who have a strong interest in interdisciplinary studies and who have demonstrated both initiative and academic excellence. Thus, the changes also include an application process that advises those students who think they are interested in such a major to the rigors and requirements of the program.

**Program Proposal Form (Revised 03/13/08)**

**(Majors, Minors or Program)**

**Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee**

**This is a change in an existing program, major or minor X**

1. Department: Interdisciplinary Studies Program (IDSt Program)

2. Major X

3. Title of major, minor or program: Independent Interdisciplinary Major (IIM)

4. If a change in an existing program, major or minor, please list below the current program, major or minor and then list the new program, major or minor:

Current Program, Major or Minor:

**From the 2007-2009 Catalog (p. 84)**

In rare instances a student, in consultation with a faculty member, may design a special, individualized major in a field of study where a concentration is not offered through an existing major, specialized minor, or program. Guidelines for a special major may be secured from the Dean for Academic Affairs.

**From the Faculty Handbook:**

**SPECIAL MAJOR**

Under extraordinary circumstances a student, in consultation with a faculty member, may design a special, individualized major in a field of study where concentration is not offered through an existing major, minor, or program.

Guidelines for self-designed majors:

1. All special majors must meet the following requirements:

a) Evidence must be given that the proposed special major meets a concrete and educationally valid need, and that no existing Simpson major or program can satisfactorily fulfill that need.

b) The student submitting the special major must enroll in a minimum of 32 semester hours at Simpson after approval of the special major and must complete at least half of the courses in the special major after its approval by the academic dean.

c) No more than 42, but not less than 35 hours may be counted toward the fulfillment of a special major, which must be taken from the current catalog offerings.

d) A special major may include no more than four 100 level courses, and must include a minimum of four 300 level courses.

e) No more than three independent study sources may be counted toward the fulfillment of a special major.

f) A student must receive at least a C (2.0) in each course that counts toward completion of the special major, and must achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 in all

courses that count toward a special major.

2. The procedure for approval of a special major:
  - a) Outline of special major
  - b) Approval by the student's academic advisor
  - c) Approval by the faculty member(s) supervising the special major
  - d) Approval by dean for academic affairs
  - e) Approval by the education policy and curriculum committee

5. Description of major/minor/program proposed:

### **Independent Interdisciplinary Major (IIM)**

The IIM is available to students who wish to study a multidisciplinary field of concentration that is not provided by one of the current majors or multidisciplinary concentrations of the college. The student will design the IIM around a topic, theme, issue, or set of questions that cannot be adequately addressed within a single existing major. Students are recommended to look for interdisciplinary programs at other institutions as models or interdisciplinary study recommended by graduate or professional programs.

Students can submit a proposal for an IIM after the completion of the first year and before the second semester of the junior year. The major will include a minimum of 11 courses and a maximum of 14 courses including a senior project. The course list should include options that allow for changes in course availability. The course list must contain

- no more than 4 100-level courses,
- at least 4 300-level courses,
- no more than 2 independent studies, not including the senior project,
- and the courses must span at least two academic departments.

No more than 4 courses may be counted as part of the IIM and any other major or minor. Other requirements common to all majors (minimum GPA, etc.) also apply to the IIM.

A senior project is required as a capstone experience for the IIM. The student, in consultation with the student-chosen advisory board, will design the senior project, which must be appropriate for the field of study. Possibilities include advanced readings in the field, undergraduate research, performance or internship.

To propose an IIM, students must have a strong academic record demonstrated by a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students must also request two letters of recommendation from faculty or staff to demonstrate seriousness of purpose and an ability to work independently and in dialogue with faculty advisors.

The Interdisciplinary Studies (IDSt) Program faculty will consist of 3 faculty members, one of which will be the director of the program, representing 3 divisions of the college. The Interdisciplinary Studies Program faculty will serve as a committee that will advise students on the development of student-chosen advisory boards and completion of IIM proposals and will review, but not approve, proposals to pass on to the EPCC for final approval. The Interdisciplinary Studies Program faculty will serve as a department for students pursuing an IIM, signing graduation applications, petitions and other documents requiring department chair review.

Students will choose, in consultation with the Interdisciplinary Studies Program faculty, a group of faculty advisors representing at least two of the departments from which courses for the Independent IIM will be chosen. The Interdisciplinary Studies Program faculty will provide students advice on procedures and the development of the IIM proposal, and the student-chosen advisory board will provide advice on the focus or theme of the IIM, the choice of courses and the nature of the senior project.

Approval procedure:

- 1) The student consults with the Interdisciplinary Studies Program faculty on choosing an advisory board and developing a proposal.
- 2) With support from the student-chosen advisory board, the student develops a title of the IIM, a set of courses, including options to allow for changes in course offerings, and the nature of the senior project.
- 3) The student submits a proposal to the Interdisciplinary Studies Program faculty including the title of the IIM, a list of required courses, description of the senior project, two letters of recommendation, and an explanation for how the proposed program will meet the student's educational goals and lead the student into a career or graduate school.
- 4) The Interdisciplinary Studies Program faculty will review the proposals and advise the students on the development of a proposal, but will not approve the proposals. The proposal then goes to the EPCC for final approval. The student, along with his or her advisory board, will have the opportunity to meet with the EPCC in support of the proposal.

After EPCC approval, the Interdisciplinary Studies Program faculty can approve changes to the required courses of the IIM.

6. How does this program proposal affect your department's teaching load?

There will be no courses taught by the faculty of this program.

7. What is the rationale for the change of this program, major or minor?

The proposed changes will make the major more visible and accessible. The language, procedure and requirements are comparable to that used at other institutions with active student-designed interdisciplinary major programs. A summary including the rationale for each change and comparison to other programs is in a table beginning on the next page.

Other colleges use the student-designed interdisciplinary major to meet the changing needs of the students, and in some cases, what had been a student-designed major has now been added to the catalog. Interdisciplinary Studies programs at other schools mentor students in the development of major proposals, and use the opportunity to help students explore their interests.

### Summary of Independent Interdisciplinary Major Proposal

	<b>Current Simpson</b>	<b>Proposed Simpson</b>	<b>Rationale for Changes or Comparison to Other Schools</b>
<b>Name of Major</b>	Special	Independent Interdisciplinary Major (IIM)	A more specific name will make the nature of the major clear to students, prospective employers, and graduate schools. On the transcript the major will be listed as “Independent Interdisciplinary Major: Name of emphasis”, which is consistent with the procedure at other schools.
<b>Description</b>	in a field of study where concentration is not offered through an existing major, minor, or program	The IIM is available to students who wish to study a multidisciplinary field of concentration that is not provided by one of the regular majors or multidisciplinary concentrations of the college.	
<b>Need</b>	proposed special major meets a concrete and educationally valid need	The student will design the IIM around a topic, theme, issue, or set of questions that cannot be adequately addressed within a single major. Students are recommended to look for interdisciplinary programs at other institutions as models or interdisciplinary study recommended by graduate or professional programs.	
<b>Timing</b>	Before the final year of college.	Student can submit a proposal for an IIM after the completion of the first year and before the second semester of the junior year.	The timing of the proposal of the interdisciplinary major varies from school to school, but generally occurs during the sophomore or early junior years.

	<b>Current Simpson</b>	<b>Proposed Simpson</b>	<b>Rationale for Changes or Comparison to Other Schools</b>
<b>How many Courses</b>	11 to 14, inclusive	From 11 to 14 courses are required, including a senior project. The course list should include options that allow for changes in course availability. The course list must contain...	The number of courses required at other schools varies depending on how many courses were required to graduate, but generally ran from 10 to 14. This number should be reevaluated after we complete the changes to our curriculum.
<b>100-level?</b>	no more than 4 100-level courses	no more than 4 100-level courses,	These criteria are similar to other schools.
<b>300-level?</b>	at least 4 300-level courses	at least 4 300-level courses, and	
<b>Independent Studies</b>	no more than 3 independent study courses	no more than 2 independent studies, not including the senior project.	Those schools that restricted the number of independent studies usually only allowed two. By restricting the number of independent studies, the interdisciplinary major must draw on the current expertise of our faculty.
<b>Other course requirements?</b>	Courses must be regular catalog courses.	No more than 4 courses may be counted as part of the IIM and any other major or minor. Other requirements common to all majors (minimum GPA, etc.) also apply to the IIM.	Other schools had restrictions similar to this to avoid allowing students to combine courses in other majors they are pursuing to receive a third interdisciplinary major for work they are already completing. This restriction was even stronger at other schools, where students with an IIM could not have a second major. The requirement that courses be regular catalog courses is contradictory to allowing independent study courses.

	<b>Current Simpson</b>	<b>Proposed Simpson</b>	<b>Rationale for Changes or Comparison to Other Schools</b>
<b>How many Departments?</b>	Not specified	The courses chosen for the IIM must span at least two academic departments.	All schools studied required a special or interdisciplinary major to draw from two, sometimes three, departments. Some specified the number of courses in the IIM that must come from other departments, usually a core of courses came from a single department, but about a third of the courses had to come from outside that core department.
<b>Senior thesis/project</b>	Not required	A senior project is required as a capstone experience for the IIM. The student, in consultation with the student-chosen advisory board, will design the senior project, which must be appropriate for the field of study. Possibilities include advanced readings in the field, undergraduate research or an internship.	Only one school studied did not require a senior project, but several allowed for a variety of types of projects assuming that a specific type of project would not be appropriate for all majors.
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None	To propose an IIM, students must have a strong academic record demonstrated by a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students must also request two letters of recommendation from faculty or staff to demonstrate seriousness of purpose and an ability to work independently and in dialogue with faculty advisors.	All programs indicated that only the best students should consider this type of major. A GPA of 3.0 includes a broad range of students, and the letters of recommendation will help the program faculty and EPCC judge the ability of the student to succeed in the program. Many schools required faculty support for interdisciplinary major proposals.

	<b>Current Simpson</b>	<b>Proposed Simpson</b>	<b>Rationale for Changes or Comparison to Other Schools</b>
<b>Administration</b>	Generally through the academic dean's office	The Interdisciplinary Studies (IDSt) Program faculty will consists of 3 faculty members, one of which will be the director of the program, representing 3 divisions of the college. The IDSt Program faculty will serve as a committee that will advise students on the development of student-chosen advisory boards and completion of IIM proposals and will review proposals to pass on to the EPCC for final approval. The IDSt Program faculty will serve as a department for students pursuing an IIM, signing graduation applications, petitions and other documents requiring department chair review.	The schools with the most successful interdisciplinary study programs had a director of the program, often a faculty member, and a committee to support students as they apply for the interdisciplinary major. This group of faculty also oversees promotion and assessment of the program, maintaining web pages, creating catalog copy and completing self-studies.
<b>Advisor</b>	Not specified	Students will choose, in consultation with the IDSt Program faculty, a group of faculty advisors representing at least two of the departments from which courses for the Independent IIM will be chosen. The IDSt Program faculty will provide students advice on procedures and the development of the major proposal, and the advisory board will provide advice on the focus or theme of the major, the choice of courses and the nature of the senior project.	Most schools described the process by which students chose a group of faculty to serve as advisors for the interdisciplinary major that required a representative advisor from each department that contributes to the major.

	<b>Current Simpson</b>	<b>Proposed Simpson</b>	<b>Rationale for Changes or Comparison to Other Schools</b>
<b>Procedure</b>	<p>The procedure for approval of a special major:</p> <p>a) Outline of special major</p> <p>b) Approval by the student's academic advisor</p> <p>c) Approval by the faculty member(s) supervising the special major</p> <p>d) Approval by dean for academic affairs</p> <p>e) Approval by the education policy and curriculum committee</p>	<p>1) The student consults with the IDSt Program faculty on choosing an advisory board and developing a proposal.</p> <p>2) With support from the student-chosen advisory board, the student develops a title of the IIM, a set of courses, including options to allow for changes in course offerings, and the nature of the senior project.</p> <p>3) The student submits a proposal to the IDSt Program faculty including the title of the IIM, a list of required courses, description of the senior project, two letters of recommendation, and an explanation for how the proposed program will meet the student's educational goals and lead the student into a career or graduate school.</p> <p>4) After review by the IDSt Program faculty, the proposal goes to the EPCC for final approval. The student will have the opportunity to meet with the IDSt Program faculty and EPCC in support of the proposal.</p> <p>After EPCC approval, the IDSt Program faculty can approve changes to the required courses of the IIM.</p>	<p>The director of the IIM Program at Brandeis strongly recommends counseling students before, during and after the development of a proposal. One way that some schools mentored students who want to propose an IIM was to connect them with students already in the program. The strongest IIM programs used the development of a proposal as a way to help students clarify their goals and aspirations.</p> <p>For most schools, final approval of the interdisciplinary major was the charge of the curriculum committee, although two schools left the decision to the dean or the provost.</p> <p>Several schools left approval of changes to the courses required for the IIM to the interdisciplinary committee.</p>

8. Will this new/changed major/minor/program require the addition of new courses?  X  Yes  
\_\_\_No

Three course designations will be added: IDSt 380 Independent Study in Interdisciplinary Studies, IDSt 385 Capstone Experience in Interdisciplinary Studies and IDSt 398 Research in Interdisciplinary Studies. These designations are to allow for independent study and research when there is no specific department under which the independent study or the research could be completed.

9. What affect will this new/changed major/minor/program have on other programs and departments?

None.

10. If this is a new program, how will you assess the effectiveness of this program to carry out the mission of your department in meeting its objectives?

Most importantly, the program will be assessed by the success of placing Simpson graduates with IIM degrees in their desired field or graduate school. Therefore, we should track students after college and keep in touch with them about the affect their major had on their success.

Another assessment possibility is to compare the interdisciplinary majors designed and approved at Simpson to those at other successful programs. Another sign of success is if the development of student-designed majors effects positive change in programs on campus or generates new interdisciplinary majors added to the catalog.

The senior project provides us with an opportunity to assess how well the students can synthesize and communicate in the interdisciplinary field. We could invite outside reviewers to evaluate the final product of the students' senior projects and provide us feedback on the effectiveness of the students' chosen curricula, using that information to help mentor future students.

### **Implementation Issues**

The Interdisciplinary Studies Program (IDSt) will be staffed with three faculty members appointed by the dean. The three faculty members will come from three different divisions and will serve for three years on staggered terms. One member of the IDSt Program staff will serve as the program director.

The responsibilities of the staff of the IDSt Program will include

- advising students about the IIM major and proposal process,
- helping students choose an advisory board,
- reviewing IIM proposals before submission to the EPCC,
- approval subsequent course changes to IIM proposals after approval by the EPCC, and
- maintaining catalog and website copy.

The IDSt program will have a section of the catalog similar to that of a department. There will also be an IDSt page on the website similar to that of a department.

**Proposed or supported BY:**

Murphy Waggoner, Brian Steffen, John Pauley, Rick Spellerberg, Jackie Brittingham, Jennifer Nostrala

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Signatures

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Date

**REVIEWED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Academic Dean

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Other Reviewers\*\*

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Comments:

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Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Student-Designed Interdisciplinary Majors from Other Institutions**

Vassar (<http://independentprogram.vassar.edu/major.html>)

Animation Studies and Production  
Philosophy of Dance  
Urban Social Welfare  
Biochemical Visualization  
Racial Identity Construction  
Political Culture and the Sociology  
of Development in Africa and  
the Caribbean  
Children and the Law in America  
European Studies  
Poetry and Film

Critical Theory: The Institutional  
Relations of Art, Language  
and Culture Perspectives on  
Language  
Dramatic Writing, Myths, and  
Archetypes  
Language and Childhood  
Development  
Development and Growth in the  
Third World

Brandeis (<http://www.brandeis.edu/as/advpol/IIM%20Titles.doc>)

Environment, Community and  
Development  
Sustainable Development  
Visual Literacy and Communication  
PPE: Philosophy, Politics and  
Economics  
Biological Anthropology  
Cognitive and Computer Systems  
Developing Nations

Environmental Education  
Environmental Law and Policy  
Film Studies  
Genetics, Health and Society  
International Health Policy  
Literary Theory  
Renaissance Studies  
Third World Health  
Urban Studies

University of California-Long Beach ([http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/grad\\_undergrad/isp/](http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/grad_undergrad/isp/))

Music Management  
Sport Psychology  
Ecological Studies  
Sport Nutrition  
Biomedical Ethics

Feminism in Philosophy and  
Literature  
Global Relations Management  
Audio Engineering  
Technology-Based Learning

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (<http://www.umbc.edu/inds/samples/index.html>)

American history and literature  
Biomechanics  
Biomedical Illustration  
Community health  
Educational policy  
Ethical Issues in Healthcare Policy  
Geographic information systems:  
Environmental applications

Science journalism  
Intercultural conflict resolution  
Literary arts: voicing the inner muse  
Medical Illustration  
Music performance and  
anthropology  
Philosophy and mathematics  
Physical science  
Religious studies and counseling

## **Previous Special Majors Awarded from Simpson**

Design of Technical Businesses  
Arts Administration  
Health Science/Nursing  
Science and Business  
Environmental Study Planning and Design  
Advertising (before our current Marketing Major)  
Special Needs Advocacy

## **Links to information at a sample of other schools.**

### **Mt. Holyoke**

Application for the special major.  
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/reg/assets/Registrar/specialmajor.pdf>  
A description of how the special major fits into the curriculum.  
<https://cat.mtholyoke.edu/static/showpage.shtml?page=BA>  
An overview of the special major and other interdisciplinary majors.  
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/special.shtml>  
Articles about students who have built their own major.  
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/comm/vista/9906/self.shtml>

### **Vassar**

Overview and details of the independent program.  
<http://independentprogram.vassar.edu/major.html>

### **Brandeis**

Overall description and details of the Interdisciplinary Independent Major  
<http://www.brandeis.edu/as/advpol/IIMmajor.html>

### **Goshen**

Overview of interdisciplinary major.  
<http://www.goshen.edu/interdisc/>

### **Hollins**

Overview of interdisciplinary major.  
<http://www.hollins.edu/undergrad/interdisciplinary/interdis.htm>

### **Goucher**

Overview of interdisciplinary studies major  
<http://www.goucher.edu/x5752.xml>

**New Course Proposal Form**  
(Revised 03/13/08)  
**Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee**

1. Department: Interdisciplinary Studies Program (IDSt)      Date: 28 August 2008  
2. Course Numbers and Titles:

IDSt 380 Independent Study in Interdisciplinary Studies  
IDSt 385 Interdisciplinary Capstone Experience  
IDSt 398 Research in Interdisciplinary Studies

3. Course description as it is to appear in the catalog.

**IDSt 380 Independent Study in Interdisciplinary Studies.**

**IDSt 385 Interdisciplinary Capstone Experience**

The capstone experience is designed to give a student the opportunity to synthesize the course work and experiences of the Independent Interdisciplinary Studies Major. In consultation with one or more faculty advisors, the student will formulate and carry out an interdisciplinary research project, internship or other capstone experience. Students will be required to present both written and oral reports of their capstone experience to the Interdisciplinary Studies Program faculty and the student's advisory board at the conclusion of the capstone experience. **Prerequisite:** Senior standing and acceptance into the Independent Interdisciplinary Major. 3 hours

**IDSt 398 Independent Interdisciplinary Research**

Investigations in the concentration area of an Independent Interdisciplinary Major. Research in interdisciplinary studies is to be completed in consultation with one or more faculty advisors. Students will be required to present both written and oral reports of their research work to the Interdisciplinary Studies Program faculty and the student's advisory board are required at the conclusion of the research experience. 1 to 3 hours.

4. What is the rationale for the addition of this course?

Students who complete an Independent Interdisciplinary Major will be required to complete a capstone experience, but there might not be a current disciplinary capstone experience that is appropriate to the field of study. IDSt 385 Interdisciplinary Capstone Experience will give the student and his or her advisory board a course designation to use for the capstone experience.

Similarly, students who complete an Independent Interdisciplinary Major may want to take a directed study or do research. If there is no disciplinary home for the subjects the student wants to study or research, then the courses IDSt 380 and IDSt 385 can be used. Many schools that have student-designed interdisciplinary majors have specific courses in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program for independent study, research and capstone experiences.

5. How does this course addition affect the department teaching load?

The responsibility for supervising the capstone experience, independent study or research of Independent Interdisciplinary Majors will be distributed among the faculty and will not be the responsibility of one department.

6. Will this course be a requirement or an elective? If a requirement, how does it affect the major/minor?

Students in the Independent Interdisciplinary Major will be required to complete a capstone experience. Some of these students may find the capstone course in a specific field to fit the needs of their major; others may choose IDSt 385 for the capstone.

IDSt 380 and IDSt 398 are optional courses.

7. Will this course addition affect other departments and/or programs? (e.g.: Teacher licensure, Cornerstones, requirements for other majors/minors, etc.)

No.

8. How frequently will the course be offered?

As needed.

9. Who will be teaching this course?

The student will select the advisors who will direct the independent study, research or capstone experience.

10. Is this course going to be a Cornerstone? If yes, please fill out the Cornerstone proposal form as well.

No, these courses will not be cornerstones.

**Proposed or supported BY:**

Murphy Waggoner, Brian Steffen, John Pauley, Rick Spellerberg, Jackie Brittingham, Jennifer Nostrala

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Signatures

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Date

**REVIEWED BY:**

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Signature of Academic Dean

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Date

Other Reviewers\*\*

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Date

Comments:

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Date

Comments:

	<b>Current Simpson</b>	<b>Mt. Holyoke</b>
<b>Name</b>	Special	Special Major
<b>Description</b>	in a field of study where concentration is not offered through an existing major, minor, or program.	
<b>Need</b>	proposed special major meets a concrete and educationally valid need	
<b>Timing</b>	Before final year.	Before registration for the second semester of the junior year.
<b>How many Courses</b>	11 to 14, inclusive	40 credits
<b>100-level?</b>	no more than 4 100-level courses	
<b>300-level?</b>	at least 4 300-level courses	at least 20 credits in 300-level courses
<b>Independent Studies</b>	no more than 3 independent study courses	
<b>Other course requirements?</b>		300-level courses must be in two departments
<b>How many Departments</b>		Two
<b>Senior thesis/project</b>	No	
<b>Prerequisites</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
<b>Procedure</b>	Final approval by curriculum committee.	Final approval by the dean of the college.
<b>Advisor</b>		student-selected advisory committee including two professors from the relevant departments
<b>Other</b>		
<b>Size</b>	1500 students	
<b>Number of IIMs each year</b>	None since 2003	

	<b>Bates</b>	<b>Hollins</b>
<b>Name</b>	Interdisciplinary Studies	Interdisciplinary Major
<b>Description</b>	A student who has discovered a well-defined problem area or particular theme that crosses one or more boundaries of the established fields of concentration may propose an interdisciplinary major.	An interdisciplinary major enables a student to construct from two or more disciplines a course of study not available through one department.
<b>Need</b>	rationale describing why this problem or theme cannot be pursued within majors or secondary concentrations currently available,	
<b>Timing</b>	Before end of the sophomore year.	
<b>How many Courses</b>	at least 10 courses	at least 8 courses
<b>100-level?</b>		no more than 2 100-level courses
<b>300-level?</b>		at least 4 300-level courses
<b>Independent Studies</b>		no more than 2 independent study courses
<b>Other course requirements?</b>		
<b>How many Departments</b>	Two	
<b>Senior thesis/project</b>	Yes or comprehensive exam	Yes plus capstone portfolio
<b>Prerequisites</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
<b>Procedure</b>	Final approval by the curriculum committee.	
<b>Advisor</b>	student-selected advisory committee including two professors from the relevant departments	student-selected advisory committee including two professors from the relevant departments
<b>Other</b>	It is recommended that more than 10 courses be listed to obviate the need to seek approval for changes.	Possible subjects for interdisciplinary majors include a period, an idea, or a set of problems.
<b>Size</b>		733
<b>Number of IIMs each year</b>		between 2 and 8 each year

	<b>Vassar</b>	<b>Hanover College</b>
<b>Name</b>	Independent program	Self-designed interdisciplinary major
<b>Description</b>	The Independent Program is available to students at Vassar College who wish to elect a field of concentration that is not provided by one of the regular departments, interdepartmental concentrations, or multidisciplinary concentrations of the college.	
<b>Need</b>		
<b>Timing</b>	Before end of the sophomore year.	Before registration for the first semester of the junior year.
<b>How many Courses</b>	at least 12 courses	at least 10 courses
<b>100-level?</b>		no more than 4 100-level courses
<b>300-level?</b>	at least 4 300-level courses	
<b>Independent Studies</b>		
<b>Other course requirements?</b>		
<b>How many Departments</b>		Two
<b>Senior thesis/project</b>	Yes	Yes plus a comprehensive exam
<b>Prerequisites</b>		cumulative GPA of at least 2.75
<b>Administration</b>	The committee consists of one member from each division, and acts as a department, with the director as department chair, for all students in the program.	
<b>Procedure</b>		Final approval by the curriculum committee.
<b>Advisor</b>		student-selected advisory committee including three professors from the relevant departments
<b>Other</b>		
<b>Size</b>		
<b>Number of IIMs each year</b>		

	<b>Hendrix College</b>	<b>Wisconsin Lutheran</b>
<b>Name</b>	Interdisciplinary studies major	Self-designed interdisciplinary major
<b>Description</b>	When none of the academic majors offered at Manchester match the specific academic needs	courses of study not offered by individual departments
<b>Need</b>		
<b>Timing</b>	Before registration for the first semester of the junior year and absolutely no later than the first semester of the junior year.	
<b>How many Courses</b>	at least 10 courses	at least 42 hours
<b>100-level?</b>		
<b>300-level?</b>	at least 4 300-level courses	
<b>Independent Studies</b>		
<b>Other course requirements?</b>	A student completing an individualized interdisciplinary major cannot have another major.	24 hours in a one discipline, 28 hours in at least two other disciplines
<b>How many Departments</b>		Three
<b>Senior thesis/project</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Prerequisites</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
<b>Procedure</b>	Final approval by the associate provost.	
<b>Advisor</b>	student-selected advisory committee including three professors from the relevant departments	faculty committee specially appointed by the academic dean
<b>Other</b>		
<b>Size</b>	1195 students	750 students
<b>Number of IIMs each year</b>		

	<b>U. of Puget Sound</b>	<b>Brandeis</b>
<b>Name</b>	Special Interdisciplinary Major	Independent Interdisciplinary Major
<b>Description</b>	may be in a recognized interdisciplinary field or in an emergent field	offers students with interdisciplinary intellectual interests the opportunity to design a course of study not available in the regular curriculum
<b>Need</b>		Each Independent Interdisciplinary Major is designed around a topic, theme, issue, or set of questions that cannot be adequately addressed within the context of existing majors or minors
<b>Timing</b>	After completion of the first year.	Before the end of the junior year.
<b>How many Courses</b>	12 to 16, inclusive	12 to 15, inclusive
<b>100-level?</b>	at least 10 courses at 200 or 300 level	
<b>300-level?</b>	at least 6 300-level courses	
<b>Independent Studies</b>	no more than 2 independent study courses	
<b>Other course requirements?</b>		No more than 4 courses can be counted as part of the Interdisciplinary major and any other major or minor.
<b>How many Departments</b>	Two	At least 2, but 3 preferred
<b>Senior thesis/project</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Prerequisites</b>	cumulative GPA of at least 3.2	
<b>Administration</b>		IIM Coordinator
<b>Procedure</b>	Final approval by the curriculum committee.	
<b>Advisor</b>	student-selected advisory committee including three professors from the relevant departments	student-selected advisory committee including two professors from the relevant departments
<b>Other</b>		Search University catalogs or the internet for examples of similar majors offered at other institutions. Copy any findings for inclusion in your petition.
<b>Size</b>	2500 students	3200
<b>Number of IIMs each year</b>		5 each year

	<b>Wesleyan College (Macon, GA)</b>	<b>Goshen</b>
<b>Name</b>	Self-designed interdisciplinary major	Interdisciplinary Major
<b>Description</b>	interrelate at least two fields of learning, yet have a central and cohesive theme	An interdisciplinary major gives students the freedom to design an academic program that either serves their particular interests or allows them to prepare for a specific career requiring a broad range of knowledge.
<b>Need</b>		An interdisciplinary major is for students who wish to engage in substantial study in several academic fields.
<b>Timing</b>	Before the end of the first semester of the junior year.	
<b>How many Courses</b>	at least 39 semester hours	At least 45 credit hours, plus a senior seminar and internship
<b>100-level?</b>		
<b>300-level?</b>	at least 21 hours in 300-level courses	at least 18 hours in 300-level courses
<b>Independent Studies</b>		
<b>Other course requirements?</b>	At least 3 courses at the 300-level must be from each of the departments.	At least 15 hours in each of 3 departments
<b>How many Departments</b>		Three
<b>Senior thesis/project</b>		Yes
<b>Prerequisites</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		Program advisor who is the advisor for most of the interdisciplinary majors
<b>Procedure</b>	Final approval by the curriculum committee.	
<b>Advisor</b>	student-selected advisor chosen from one of the relevant departments	student-selected advisor chosen from the field of the capstone experience
<b>Other</b>		Many graduate programs, including journalism and law schools, acknowledge the need for a broad base of study and interdisciplinary studies majors often plan on continuing their education at the graduate level.
<b>Size</b>	600 students	933
<b>Number of IIMs each year</b>		15 each year