Individually designed
interdepartmental major

Individualized Degree Programs

Information on major requirements is subject to change and is provided here for information purposes. For current information about major requirements, contact your CLA student community or the major department. — 03/03

B.A.

The IDIM program enables students to fulfill the major program requirements for the B.A. degree by completing an interdepartmental program of coursework focused on a theme of their own choosing, designed in consultation with faculty and staff advisers.

IDIM programs consist of three or four areas of concentration, integrated in such a way that the major has strong thematic unity and coherence.

Working closely with an IDIM adviser, students develop program proposals that explain their academic goals and list a set of courses appropriate for meeting those goals. IDIM program proposals must be approved by three faculty or department advisers with expertise in the areas of concentration. Some departments have established guidelines for students who wish to include in their majors concentration areas based in those departments. Consult an IDIM adviser or the IDP website (www.class.umn.edu/idp) for specific information on proposal approval procedures and department guidelines.

The following is a list of previously approved IDIM programs:

- Law, Justice, and Inequality in America
- Comparative Studies in Education and Liberation
- Art and the Designed Environment
- Science and Its Impact on Humanistic Thought
- Performance Art
- Gender and Queer Studies
- Human Rights and Women: Paths to Remedies
- Religious Thought and Expression in Cultural Context

Degree Requirements

Students must complete at least 120 credits to graduate, including at least 50 credits in the major.

The 50 credits must be distributed among three or four concentration areas, with at least 11 credits at the 3xxx level or above in each area. The concentrations may be departmental or thematic in composition. At least 40 of the 50 credits must be 3xxx or above.

At least 20 credits in the major must be completed after the program has been approved. No more than 12 credits of directed studies may be applied toward the major. The CLA requirement of 18 credits at or above 3xxx outside the major does not apply.

Final Project

Students must complete an integrating senior project, earning at least 2 credits in conjunction with the project. Project proposals must be approved by faculty and staff advisers the semester before the project is begun. Projects may vary widely in form, depending on a student’s major. The project proposal and the project itself must be reviewed and approved by one faculty adviser and two faculty readers.

Academic Advising

In addition to working with an IDIM adviser, who will assist students in planning their majors, students also work with a college adviser in their CLA student community who assists them with degree requirements.
What can I do with an IDIM?

Skills
IDIM majors learn critical and independent thinking, writing, self-confidence, flexibility, and the ability to navigate a complex system are among the most important skills and qualities that IDIM graduates say they developed through their individualized degree programs. IDIM graduates report that employers are often impressed with the creativity, initiative, and persistence they demonstrate in having completed individualized programs.

Employment
Individualized programs can include courses from a wide variety of departments. The majority of IDIM graduates go on to work in fields related to their programs of study. Among the most common fields are communication and media, marketing and advertising, finance, education, human resources, health care, and non-profit program management. In recent years, over 25% of IDIM students have gone on to graduate degree programs that prepared them to work in fields ranging from business to landscape architecture to law to medicine to public health to screenwriting.

The Career & Community Learning Center provides CLA students with many of the tools they will need to identify potential careers and to implement their eventual career choice. An extensive resource room, the CLA Link job/internship/volunteer position listing website, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just a few of the ways that we can help. For further information, check us out online or stop by our office.

Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577

How do I declare an IDIM major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Go to an IDIM information meeting to learn more about program requirements and the program approval process. Orientation meetings are held 3 times a week. You may call (612) 624-8006 or come to 345 Fraser Hall to sign up. Meeting times are listed on the IDP website (www.class.umn.edu/idp/).

2. When you have decided upon your program and concentration areas, meet with an IDIM adviser to fill out an IDIM Major Declaration Form.

3. File this form with your CLA student community. At the time the major declaration is filed, a registration hold will be placed on your records that requires you to meet with an IDIM adviser prior to each registration until you have completed the program approval process.

4. To complete the program approval process, you will first work closely with an IDIM adviser to develop your IDIM program proposal, which explains your academic goals and lists your proposed courses. You will then submit the proposal to the IDIM Proposal Review Committee.

5. After the Proposal Review Committee has accepted your proposal, you will bring your IDIM program proposal to advisers in your area of concentration for their review and formal approval.

6. Bring the program approval forms signed by your concentration area advisers to an IDIM adviser and fill out a major program form.

7. Last, bring the major program form to your CLA Student Community. After this you will no longer be required to see an IDIM adviser before you register, but you will need to consult your adviser about any changes in your program and about planning your senior project.

For more information

About the individually designed interdepartmental major:
Individualized Degree Programs Office
345 Fraser Hall
(612) 624-8006
idp@class.cla.umn.edu
http://idp.class.umn.edu

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:
If you are uncertain of the CLA student community to which you are assigned, contact the
CLA Student Information Office
49 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2020

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:
Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed an IDIM Major Declaration Form with your IDIM adviser
- filed a copy with your CLA student community
- be sure to keep a copy for yourself