

## What about a major in...?

# Individually Designed Interdepartmental Major (IDIM)

## What is IDIM?

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 (<http://idp.class.umn.edu>) 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

## What are the major requirements?

Go to [www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html) and select “Undergraduate majors.”

## 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 (<http://idp.class.umn.edu>).
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.

## For more information:

### About the Individually Designed Interdepartmental major:

Individualized Degree  
Programs Office

345 Fraser Hall  
(612) 624-8006

<http://idp.class.umn.edu/>  
[idp@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:idp@class.cla.umn.edu)

### About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

Individualized Degree  
Programs Office

345 Fraser Hall  
(612) 624-8006

<http://idp.class.umn.edu/>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Program

19 Johnston Hall  
(612) 625-2300

[http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/  
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu](http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/mlk@class.cla.umn.edu)

### 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/](http://www.cclc.umn.edu/)  
[cclc@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:cclc@class.cla.umn.edu)

### About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division  
20 Nicholson

(612) 624-5522

[www.honors.class.umn.edu/](http://www.honors.class.umn.edu/)  
[honors@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:honors@class.cla.umn.edu)

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.

## What can I do with a major in 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.

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

### Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

**Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!**