



## Designing an Individualized Studies Major

An Individualized Studies major is a special interdisciplinary major designed by an individual student. Each Individualized Studies program is unique.

A Individualized Studies program is not a random collection of courses. Instead, each Individualized Studies major is a carefully selected group of courses, all of which relate to a central theme. Because they cannot be too similar to any existing UW major, all Individualized Studies majors are interdisciplinary, drawing courses from two or more departments.

Before you can design an Individualized Studies major you must be able to state the interdisciplinary theme of your major. There is no list of Individualized Studies themes. You must create a theme that meets your interests and needs, and then you must spend some time perusing the UW Course Descriptions ([www.washington.edu/students/crscat](http://www.washington.edu/students/crscat)) to draft a list of courses that will constitute your major. An Individualized Studies adviser, as well as the Individualized Studies committee and your faculty sponsors, will suggest improvements and point out potential problems at different stages of the process, but they will not design your major for you.

The creation of an Individualized Studies major requires a good deal of work and reflection. The reward is a major tailored to your own interests.

### More Information

See the other side of this hand-out for an example proposal and adviser contact information.

Before you make an appointment with an adviser, please review the website ([depts.washington.edu/istudies/student\\_designed](http://depts.washington.edu/istudies/student_designed)) and be prepared to discuss the first draft of your major description and course list.

### How to Design an Individualized Studies Major

- Step 1:** Identify the *theme* of your major.
- Step 2:** Write a *description* of your major.
- Step 3:** Draw up a *list of courses* that will constitute your major.
- Step 4:** Go over the draft of your proposal with an Individualized Studies adviser.
- Step 5:** Submit your proposal to the Individualized Studies Committee.
- Step 6:** If your proposal is approved, obtain the signatures of two faculty sponsors.
- Step 7:** Return your signed proposal to 171 Mary Gates Hall and complete a change-of-major form.

## Sample Proposal

**Title:** *Medieval Studies*

**Description:** This proposed program is an interdisciplinary study of the Medieval period of European culture—its literature, history, art, and philosophy.

Much of what we know as modern Western civilization, including nation states, urban societies, and university education, had its origins in the development of European culture during the period from the fall of Rome to the Renaissance. By examining this period in depth, I hope to gain a better understanding of human intellectual and social history.

**Course List:**

(Courses marked with an asterisk have already been completed.)

* ENGL 211	5 cr	<i>Medieval and Renaissance Literature</i>
* ENGL 320	5 cr	<i>English Literature: The Middle Ages</i>
ENGL 321	5 cr	<i>Chaucer</i>
* C LIT 424	5 cr	<i>The Epic Tradition</i>
* HSTAM 203	5 cr	<i>Medieval People</i>

Three of the following seven courses:

HSTAM 331	5 cr	<i>Early Middle Ages</i>
HSTAM 332	5 cr	<i>Central Middle Ages</i>
HSTAM 333	5 cr	<i>Late Middle Ages</i>
HSTAM 336	5 cr	<i>The Humanist Ideal: From the Greeks to the Renaissance</i>
HSTAM 340	5 cr	<i>Medieval Women</i>
HSTAM 360	5 cr	<i>Medieval Christianity</i>
HSTAM 472	5 cr	<i>Intellectual &amp; Religious History of the Later Middle Ages</i>
* ART H 202	5 cr	<i>Survey of Western Art — Medieval and Renaissance</i>
* ART H 2XX	3 cr	<i>Celtic Art</i> (transferred course)

One of the following two courses:

ART H 351	5 cr	<i>Early Medieval and Byzantine Art</i>
ART H 352	5 cr	<i>High and Late Medieval Art</i>
* PHIL 321	5 cr	<i>Medieval Philosophy</i>
PHIL 484	5 cr	<i>Independent Study</i> (Erasmus)
INDIV 493	5 cr	<i>Senior Study</i>

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68 credits total



For further help and information, call (206) 543-2550 to make an appointment with one of the Individualized Studies academic advisers in the Gateway Center, 171 Mary Gates Hall. You should bring to your first meeting ideas for your major and at least a first draft of the list of courses you are proposing.