

INDIVIDUAL MAJOR, B.A.

HOW TO GET IN

ELIGIBILITY

Any undergraduate student working toward an L&S degree with a minimum University (cumulative, on all courses) grade point average of 2.000 may elect to develop an individual major. (*Students earning degrees in other undergraduate schools and colleges on the UW–Madison campus are not eligible to pursue an individual major within Letters & Science.*) The individual major **must** receive approval during the second-semester of the sophomore year or first semester of junior year to ensure that they can complete the major within four years. **All students are required to earn at least 30 degree credits after the term in which approval is given.** A student may complete only one individual major.

APPLYING FOR AN INDIVIDUAL MAJOR

Applications for the individual major are accepted up to Friday of the fourth week of classes in the fall and spring semesters only. Applications received after that deadline will be reviewed during the following term. Individual major applications are not reviewed during the summer.

The application **must** include all items outlined below:

1. The Individual Major application form;
2. A cover letter from the student to the Faculty Committee on Individual Majors describing the area of interest, explaining why the academic goals of the individual major cannot be achieved through an existing major or combination of majors and certificates, and discussing the individual major's applicability to future goals and plans;
3. A list of courses that will be included in the major along with a narrative explaining how the courses included on the list apply to the proposed individual major program (**NOTE: students can use a maximum of two (2) courses completed prior to getting the Individual Major approved as part of their list of courses**);
4. A letter of recommendation and support for the proposal from the individual major advisor; and
5. The student's current student record (unofficial transcript).

Additional supporting materials may also be included. Students must submit the original completed application with all supporting documentation in an electronic format to the individual major coordinator by the deadline.

Each individual major application is reviewed by a committee of three faculty members from the College of Letters & Science, each representing a department related to the proposed major. The faculty committee evaluates the proposal for coherence, appropriate breadth and depth, and similarity to existing majors. The committee may approve the proposal as submitted, recommend modifications, reject the proposal altogether, or reject it with an invitation to revise and resubmit in a later semester.

The committee's decision is final. Committee approval is necessary for the student to declare the individual major.