

The Individualized Major or Minor at Edgewood College

The Individualized Major or Minor offer students the opportunity to create a curriculum around their own academic interests and life goals. Students use the Individualized Program to develop integrative majors or minors that Edgewood does not offer, or they use the program to add a specialized, integrative minor to a current major.

Students contemplating an Individualized Major or Minor will need to do some careful planning in order for it to be approved. Students should begin planning as early as possible to develop their academic plan; it is the student's responsibility to initiate the proposal, do the needed research and leg-work, and write a proposal narrative that will be compelling to the Individualized Major/Minor Review Team.

The Process for Developing a Major or Minor

1. Students contemplating an Individualized Major/Minor should start by organizing their ideas and reviewing the Edgewood College catalog for course descriptions that match their interests. Courses transferred from other colleges may be used, as well, so students should also gather information on transferable courses that might match their interests.
2. Once students have an idea (or several ideas) for the scope of the Major/Minor, they should contact the Dean of the School of Integrative Studies (SoIS) to share their ideas and gather information about the individualized major/minor process.
3. Then, students should talk to their current academic advisor. In most cases, that advisor will refer students to the appropriate faculty member, someone who has expertise in the field under consideration and who can help develop the Major/Minor and serve as a student's advisor.
4. Students should then meet with their Individualized Major/Minor advisor to begin working on their proposal (see accompany materials). Students and their advisors will need to do the following:
 - a. review catalogs from institutions who offer a major/minor similar to the one the student is interested in to see what kinds of courses may be used to fulfill requirements at the lower and upper levels
 - b. determine if courses will need to be taken at another institution, e.g., MATC or UW
 - c. consider if some courses will need to be fulfilled through Independent Study
 - d. determine what courses will be taken and when by mapping out a degree plan (see course planning sheets)
 - e. consider how the major/minor will achieve coherence and academic rigor
5. Students will then prepare an application following the policies printed in the college catalog and using the Individualized Major/Minor forms (coversheet, narrative, transcripts; see "Checklist"). The proposal should be submitted to the Dean of SoIS, who will then distribute it to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Individualized Major/Minor liaison and the Review Team. Accompanying the student's proposal should be an Advisor's letter of recommendation for the student, which will address the reasoning behind the application and how the major or minor supports the student's learning goals.
6. After the proposal has been submitted, a meeting will be scheduled at which the student and her/his advisor will present the proposal to Review Team, who will forward their recommendation to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

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INDIVIDUALIZED MAJORS/MINORS

CHECKLIST

This checklist is a guide to assure that your application for an individualized major/minor is complete.

- Application Coversheet
 - You have completed the coversheet, including your advisor's signature
 - Narrative Statement (see *Narrative Guidelines* document)
 - You have responded to all of the guiding questions in your essay that addresses background information, justification for the program of study, and the content that will comprise your major/minor (i.e., learning objectives, plans for integration, plans for capstone experience)
 - Your narrative explains how the courses/experiences you're including in your program plan link together meaningfully around your proposed major/minor
 - Your advisor has reviewed your essay
 - Advisor's Letter of Support
 - Individualized Major/Minor Course Plan (see *Individualized Major/Minor Course Plan* document)
 - You have completed the program plan that lists all of your courses in descending numerical order, indicating credits completed and credits still to be completed
 - If you are including transfer credits in your plan of study, indicate the institution at which you completed those credits
 - The *Course Listings by Discipline* and the *Course Listings by Semester/Year* should be completed in the planning stages with your advisor
 - Transcripts
 - Include your current transcript with your application (unofficial transcripts are acceptable)
 - Supporting Documentation
 - Feel free to include supporting materials that you think will enhance the Review Team's understanding of your proposed major/minor. Examples may include course descriptions or experiential learning materials (e.g., internships, study abroad, etc.).
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Examples of Approved Individualized Majors/Minors@Edgewood

- ◆ Environmental Studies
- ◆ Interdisciplinary Study in Youth Development
- ◆ Women's and Gender Studies
- ◆ Studies in Learning Disabilities
- ◆ International Peace Studies
- ◆ Cultural Studies
- ◆ Women, Religion and Society
- ◆ International Journalism
- ◆ International Business
- ◆ Art History
- ◆ Media Studies

Examples of Individualized Majors/Minors from Other Colleges

- ◆ Arts for Social Change
- ◆ Foundations of Global Healthcare
- ◆ Film and Visual Narrative
- ◆ Sequential Art: Graphic and
Literary Narrative
- ◆ Latin American Studies
- ◆ Comparative Ethics
- ◆ International Sustainable
Development
- ◆ The Writing of Social Change
- ◆ Educational Policy
- ◆ Family Studies