

INDIVIDUALIZED MAJOR/MINOR

NARRATIVE GUIDELINES

Your individualized major/minor application must include a narrative (i.e., an essay). This narrative will allow you to explain and clarify your program of study and its focus. Since it will provide the rationale and plans for your major/minor, you should develop this narrative in consultation with your advisor. Your advisor(s) must have read and approved this narrative before it is submitted to the Individualized Major/Minor Review Team with your other application materials.

Below are guiding categories and questions to assist you in organizing your thoughts and writing. Each of the four sections must be addressed in your narrative.

I. Description of proposed Individualized Major/Minor

Introduce us to your proposed major/minor by providing a title and description of the focus (i.e., issue, problem, theme, etc.) and importance of this area of study.

Questions to consider:

- ❖ What is the title of your individualized major/minor?
- ❖ What issue, problem, or area of concern will be the focus of your coursework?

II. Personal and professional interests

Explain why you, personally, are interested in this proposed major/minor and how it contributes to your professional learning, growth, and plans.

Questions to consider:

- ❖ What is your personal interest in this major/minor?
- ❖ How do your future career and personal plans connect to your proposed major/minor?

III. Content of proposed major/minor

What do you want to accomplish by completing this major/minor? Consider the ways in which you will integrate your learning experiences from different courses, disciplines, and settings (e.g., experiential learning)

Questions to consider:

- ❖ What are your learning objectives for your proposed major/minor?
- ❖ How do you plan to integrate two or more disciplines in your major/minor to meet your learning objectives?
- ❖ How do you plan to integrate experiential experiences into your major/minor (study abroad, service-learning, internships, community-based research, etc.)?
- ❖ What are your tentative plans for a senior capstone/synthesizing experience?
- ❖ Identify any plans you have for documenting or assessing your learning (e.g., a portfolio)

IV. Justification for major/minor

Indicate why the learning that you want to accomplish cannot be achieved through existing programs of study at Edgewood.

Questions to consider:

- ❖ Explain why existing majors or minors at Edgewood do not meet your needs?
- ❖ Why is this an important issue to study?