

BATES COLLEGE—Application for Major in Interdisciplinary Studies

Submit completed form to the Registrar & Financial Services Office

NAME _____ ID _____ DATE _____

YEAR _____ BOX # _____ change from current major? _____ 2nd major? _____

I. DEFINITION OF AN INTERDISCIPLINARY MAJOR

A student who has discovered a well-defined problem area or particular theme that crosses one or more boundaries of the established fields of concentration may propose an interdisciplinary major. Such a major consists of at least ten courses/units from no fewer than two departments/programs, including one senior thesis or comprehensive exam. The student must generate the proposal according to the guidelines below and submit all material to the Registrar & Financial Services Office for approval from the Committee on Curriculum and Calendar.

II. WRITTEN STATEMENT

Students must prepare and attach a typed statement that includes

- a. **names** of student and advisors
- b. **working title** for the proposed major. The transcript will list this major as "interdisciplinary studies."
- c. **concise description** (2-3 sentences) of the particular problem or theme for study.
- d. **rationale** describing why this problem or theme cannot be pursued within majors or secondary concentrations currently available, the coherence of selected courses and an indication of the thesis topic or likely comprehensive exam. Explain cases in which you are not following the guidelines for course selection on reverse side of this form or any logistical problems addressed and approved by advisors in this statement.

III. DEADLINES

The deadline for interdisciplinary majors is the same as the deadline for all other majors. Therefore, this completed form & statement should be submitted to the Registrar & Student Financial Services Office by the end of the sophomore year.

IV. SIGNATURES OF ADVISORY BOARD

Advisors from a department or program in which you have taken two or more courses or with expertise in the proposed area of study comprise a board that collectively advises this major. Proposals require at least three board members who must sign below. The major advisor in consultation with the board approves changes in this proposal which must be indicated on the appropriate form and submitted to the Registrar. The thesis advisor oversees the thesis and may also serve as the major advisor.

The signatures of all faculty members who agree to be advisors on this board indicate that

- a. they have read and approved the student's written statement & selected courses (reverse side of this form)
- b. they agree to substitute for/approve a new thesis advisor, if necessary

MAJOR ADVISOR _____
PRINT SIGN DEPT/PROG DATE

THESIS ADVISOR _____
PRINT SIGN DEPT/PROG DATE

ADVISOR _____
PRINT SIGN DEPT/PROG DATE

ADVISOR _____
PRINT SIGN DEPT/PROG DATE

V. COURSE SELECTION

A minimum of ten courses must be taken for this major to meet college requirements. (Advisors may require more.) The CCC, however, asks that more than ten courses be listed to obviate the need to seek approval for changes, if a course becomes unavailable. The categories below are designed to help students propose a major commensurate with many established majors. Include any deviations from these guidelines in the written statement. List alternative courses in a particular category, only if you have NOT completed the minimum. List any course in only one category.

AGREED NUMBER OF COURSES FOR THIS INTERDISCIPLINARY MAJOR _____

This number should include courses taken for the thesis (i.e. 457 and/or 458), listed in section VI below.

DEPT/CAT #, TRANSFER, JSA, JYA	TITLE	SEMESTER taken or proposed
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METHODS COURSES/UNITS (LIST UP TO 2, COMPLETE AT LEAST 1)

1.		
2.		

300 LEVEL COURSES/UNITS (LIST UP TO 4, COMPLETE AT LEAST 2)**

3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

OTHER COURSES/UNITS (LIST 9, COMPLETE AT LEAST 6)

7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

**LIST title and a faculty member who has agreed to advise any proposed Independent Study.

VI. THESIS/COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

Indicate whether you intend to write a thesis (either 1 or 2 semesters) or complete a comprehensive exam.

Interdis 457 (dept/program) *and/or* Interdis 458 (dept/program)_____ OR Comprehensive Exam _____

(Note: HONORS CANDIDATES must submit their Honors Thesis Prospectus to their board for approval.)