Individualized Studies

(The designator IDVS in catalogue)

The “Create-Your-Own-Major” Major

by Ramona Siegrist

(IDVS Major)
Individualized Studies:

**WHAT IT IS:**
- A customized major that you create
- A way to tailor any major to your specifications
- A way to accomplish the schooling you need without having to use three different schools

**WHAT IT ISN’T:**
- Not a way to “use all your transfer credits” – one exception
- The Undeclared major
- Realistic for those who don’t know what they want
Who it is for:

• Driven people who know what they want and don’t find here
• Those who fall in between majors and minors
• People whose academic needs are not satisfied by traditional majors
Prerequisites

• At least 30 credit hours
• 3.0 GPA minimum
• Completed Touchstone program (HMXP and CRTW)
Application Process
(detailed steps on website)

1. Meet with the Director and draft a plan of action
2. Create a Study Plan/Statement of Purpose – as per outline on website
3. Create an Advisory Committee
4. Have Advisory Committee approve Study Plan/Statement of Purpose
5. Submit application (3 parts) to Director
6. Appear before Coordinating Committee for final approval
Plan of Study:
(detailed requirements on website)

- All the classes you will be taking at Winthrop
- Break down by semester
- Must take prerequisites, college requirements, and class availability into account
- Include internships and/or study abroad
- Must pull from at least two Colleges (i.e. College of Business and College of Arts and Sciences)
- Be strong!
Two basic routes:

COMBINING EXISTING AREAS
• Use traditional checklists to choose classes
• “Business & Art”

Ex: Fine Art in Photography major with Marketing and International Studies classes

COMBINING EXISTING COURSES
• Choose from entire pool of classes
• Narrow down choices to what is essential to new major

Ex: International Women’s Welfare and Entrepreneurship
Sample:

My preliminary plan of study
**Courses shown are future courses only. Refer to transcript for classes already taken. Courses can be rearranged as necessary. See attached key for explanations to Plan of Study.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL 2014</th>
<th>SPRING 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>**PEAC 200 – Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution (3)</td>
<td>³ FINC 311 – Principles of Finance (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMST 300 – Intro to Women's Studies (3)</td>
<td>**PLSC 260 – The United Nations (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 201 – Intro to Cultural Anthropology (3)</td>
<td>MKTG 380 – Principles of Marketing (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 321 – Principles of Management (3)</td>
<td>BADM 350 – Legal Environment of Business (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>³ ACCT 281 – Accounting Info for Business Decisions II (3)</td>
<td>**WMST 337 – Women and Global Politics (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENTR 373 – Intro to Entrepreneurship (3)</td>
<td>*MATH 341 – Statistical Methods (3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**SUMMER 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDVS 463 (3) - Internship(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(NGO's focusing on women's welfare, anti-human trafficking, and recovery. Examples are “Polaris Project”, “Stop Human Trafficking”; microloan organization.) As per Statement of Purpose.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**FALL 2015**

| **PLSC 205 – International Politics (3)         | **ECON 216 – Principles of Macroeconomics (3)   |
| **ANTH 301 – Cross-culture Perspective (3)      | **MCOM 302 – International Communication (3)   |
| **MCOM 302 – International Communication (3)    | **PLSC 207 – Comparative Politics (3)          |
| ENTR 473 – Entrepreneurial Finance (3)          | IDVS 390 – IDVS Project: Research & Design (3)  |
| PYSC 308 – Psychology of Women (3)              | **FINC 514 – International Financial Mgmt (3)  |

**SUMMER 2016**

| IDVS 463 (3) – (Business internship in microfinance, abroad if possible) |

**FALL 2016**

| IDVS 490 – IDVS Project: Capstone (3) ²       |
| (Either leftover classes or continued internship) |
The courses in bold represent proposed major

Those courses in italics can be replaced by internships

Possible alternatives to internships would include: WMST 300, PYSC 308, SOCL 332, & SCWK 306
Other Internship options would include BADM 401, BADM 492, ENTR 491

¹ Fulfills Oral Communication Requirement
² Fulfills Intensive Writing Requirement
³ Prerequisites for MBA

Declared Minors: (As per Statement of Purpose)
*Mathematics Minor (3 credit hours)
**Peace, Justice and Conflict Resolution Minor (18 credit hours)

Departments possibly being pulled from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College of Business</th>
<th>College of Arts and Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting: 3 credits</td>
<td>Anthropology: 6 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics: 3 credits</td>
<td>Individualized Studies: 6 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurship: 9 credits</td>
<td>Mathematics: 3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance: 6 credits</td>
<td>Peace Studies: 3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management: 9 credits</td>
<td>Political Science: 9 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing: 3 credits</td>
<td>Psychology: 3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Communication: 3 credits</td>
<td>Women’s Studies: 6 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of 36 credit hours</td>
<td>Total of 36 credit hours (not including internships)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposed credit hours = 72
(21 of which is minor fulfillment and 9 are other, for a total of 42 hours in the proposed major)

(Please initial on the appropriate line)  Primary Advisor ________
Adviser ________
Adviser ________
Statement of Purpose

• 2 -3 page proposal
• Explanation of why you want this major and would be a good fit
• Summary of created major/Plan of Study
• Personal background pertinent to this major
• Academic goals and Career goals
Sample:

First two paragraphs of my Statement of Purpose
Statement of Purpose

Proposal for B. A. in Individualized Studies

The name of the major I have created is “International Women’s Welfare and Entrepreneurship.” The purpose of this major is to apply a business perspective to solve a social problem – human trafficking. The content of the major will be comprised of approximately 42 credit hours, ranging from business concentrations, such as economics, entrepreneurship, management and non-governmental organizations, to social studies areas like political science (e.g., the United Nations or Women and Global Politics), anthropology, sociology, and women’s studies.

Ideally, this major will be complemented with the Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution Minor which I intend to declare. I will also be declaring a Mathematics minor, since I only need one more credit hour to complete that minor. In my proposal, I have outlined approximately 70 credit hours, half from the College of Business and half from the College of Arts and Sciences, about 50 of which are 300 level and higher. Approximately 42 hours make up the new major, 21 hours are for fulfillment of the minors, and the remaining 9 hours are General Education requirements or prerequisites. (See Plan of Study)
Advisory Committee

- Choose 3 professors (1 primary, 2 secondary)
- Invite them to be on your Advising Committee
- Pick qualified people who are willing to help you
- Need to be from the Colleges you are pulling from
Important Info:

• Dr. Paulino – Director of Individualized Studies Program
  paulinoc@winthrop.edu
  Phone Number 323-3076  Ext: 3076
  G14 Bancroft Hall
• Individualized Studies Website
  www.winthrop.edu/cas/individualized
    ➤ About the Program
    ➤ Application Process
Questions?