

# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – SUPERIOR

Policy Subject: **Individually Designed Majors (number AP1105)**  
Cabinet Division: **Registrar's Office (Enrollment Management)**  
Date Revised: 11/2410 (date approved by Faculty Senate)

## I. Background and Purpose

- 1.1 In the 2010-12 catalog, the Individually Designed majors are discussed on pages 11, 75, 76, 113; not all of the descriptions are the same; this language will replace the language on all pages listed.
- 1.2 Previously the distance learning Individually Designed Major offered on campus required a 3.0 cumulative GPA, while the Individually Designed Major offered through Distance Learning required a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

## II. Constraints

- 2.1 There are no constraints—the grade can be created

## III. Definitions

- 3.1 See below

## IV. Policy Statements

### 4.1 Individually Designed Major Options

The Individually Designed major is an interdisciplinary academic program for learners with goals that can be met through study in at least three subject areas. The Individualized Study major is individually designed to meet educational, career or personal goals for:

- students whose educational objectives cannot adequately be realized through an existing academic program,
- students who live far from campus.

Students may also request that prior learning experiences be assessed for credit through the Prior Learning Assessment process. Six credits of prior learning may be included in the Individually Designed Major.

### 4.2 Individually Designed Major Option for On-Campus Students

The tasks and requirements for students considering an Individually Designed major on-campus are:

- Receive timely advice and guidance from the student's advisor, in close consultation with a specially appointed advisory panel consisting of at least the student's advisor and two faculty members representing disciplines other than that of the advisor.
- Submit a petition request anytime after second semester of sophomore year (43 earned credits), but before the end of the junior year (83 earned credits)
- Petition must include signatures from advisor, department chair, and faculty from each discipline
- The major must total at least 33 credits.
- At least 30 credits must be earned through UWS
- A minor of 21-24 credits in a different subject area (courses cannot overlap between major and minor)
- At least 18 credits must be earned in courses numbered 300 or higher
- At least 18 credits in the proposed major shall not yet have been completed
- At least 36 upper division (300-400 level) credits
- The last 12 credits must be earned at UWS
- Must include a capstone experience.
- A minimum grade point average of at least 2.0 at the time the petition is submitted.

### 4.3 Individually Designed Major Option for Distance Learning Students

The approval process for the major includes the advisor, faculty panel members from the selected academic areas of study, the associate dean for Distance Learning, and the University Credits Committee. Additional information about the Individually Designed Major offered through the Distance Learning Center is available at

[www.uwsuper.edu/distancelearning](http://www.uwsuper.edu/distancelearning), or by contacting the Distance Learning Center at 877-528-6597 or [dlc@uwsuper.edu](mailto:dlc@uwsuper.edu).

Students seeking the Distance Learning option have two choices.

**4.3.1 The tasks and requirements for students considering an Individually Designed major consisting of a traditional 33 credit major and 21-24 credit minor are:**

- Meet with an advisor in the Distance Learning Center to create study plan designed by the student in consultation with an academic advisor and selected faculty
- Enroll in IDS 300 to write Individually Designed major plan of study.
- Petition must include signature from Distance Learning advisor, Distance Learning Center, and faculty from each discipline.
- The major must total at least 33 credits.
- At least 30 credits must be earned through UWS
- A minor of 21-24 credits in a different subject area (courses cannot overlap between major and minor)
- At least 18 credits must be earned in courses numbered 300 or higher
- At least 36 upper division (300-400 level) credits
- The last 12 credits must be earned at UWS
- Must include a capstone experience.
- A minimum grade point average of at least 2.0 at the time the petition is submitted.

**4.3.2 The tasks and requirements for students considering an Individually Designed major consisting of a comprehensive 54 major are:**

- Meet with an advisor in the Distance Learning Center to create study plan.
- Enroll in IDS 300 to write Individually Designed major plan of study.
- Petition must include signature from Distance Learning advisor, Distance Learning Center, and faculty from each discipline.
- The major must total at least 54 credits.
- Coursework must be from at least three different disciplines
- Student must present a written rationale why the three disciplines were chosen
- At least 30 credits must be earned through UWS
- At least 18 credits must be earned in courses numbered 300 or higher
- At least 36 upper division (300-400 level) credits
- The last 12 credits must be earned at UWS
- Must include a capstone experience.
- A minimum grade point average of at least 2.0 at the time the petition is submitted.

**V. Policy Procedures**

- 5.1 Students submit Individually Designed major plans with signatures from their advisor, faculty from each area used for the major and the department chair who houses the portion of this major with the most credits to the Registrar's Office.
- Credits Committee makes decision to approve or deny Individually Designed major plan
  - Registrar's Office communicates decision of Credits Committee to student
  - Registrar's Office attaches this major to the student's record
  - Student completes major requirements
  - When the Individually Designed major is posted to the official transcript, the actual title of the major (as listed on the major plan) is added to official transcript.

**VI. Compliance**

- 6.1 Change in grade point average for on-campus option was approved by Faculty Senate (11/24/10) and Chancellor Markwood (12/14/10)
- 6.2 No Consequences
- 6.3 Report to department chairs, Distance Learning Center, faculty, advisors and students.

**VII. Attachments**

- 7.1 none