



**REQUEST TO CHANGE CURRENT ACADEMIC POLICY
OR
CREATE NEW ACADEMIC POLICY FORM**

Date: July 20, 2011	Author: Peter Nordgren	Author's Title: Interim Associate Vice Chancellor
New Policy Title: Individually Designed Major Approval	Administrators to Review:	Peter Nordgren
Old Policy Title: Interdisciplinary Studies Major Approval		Diane Douglas
<i>The signatures required to draft/change policy are listed below and must be followed in the order presented.</i>		
1 Review and Comment:	Provost's Signature:	Date:
2 Academic Affairs Endorsement:	Faculty Signature:	Date:
3 FINAL APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD AS OFFICAL UWS POLICY	Faculty Senate Endorsement:	Date:
4 UW Regent approval required?	Chancellor's Signature:	Date:
	Create as UWS Policy #:	
	UW Policy Number Affected:	

I. Background and Purpose:

- a. The current policy for Individually Designed *Major* approval requires the Individually Designed major petition to be reviewed by an academic advisor, faculty in each academic area of study, and the Credits Committee. The comprehensive Individually Designed Major offered through the Distance Learning Center additionally requires the approval of the Associate Dean for Distance Learning. The Credits Committee believes its approval does not contribute to the academic development of the major, and that approval of the advisor and faculty is adequate to ensure program quality.
- b. The current policy for the Individually Designed *Minor* requires the Individually Designed minor petition be reviewed by an academic advisor and faculty in the discipline area with the most credits. The Credits Committee believes its approval does not contribute to the academic development of the major, and that approval of the advisor and faculty is adequate to ensure program quality.
- c. The current policy for the Individually Designed Major *amendment* requires the amendment to be reviewed by an academic advisor, faculty in the discipline area where the change is occurring, and in the case of the Distance Learning student, to be signed by the Associate Dean for Distance Learning. The Credits Committee believes its approval does not contribute to the academic development of the major, and that approval of the advisor and faculty is adequate to ensure program quality.
- d. All Individually Designed Majors and Minors are given titles based on the coursework and discipline areas they contain. To streamline the processing of these majors and minors, the title *Interdisciplinary Studies* would be more appropriate.
- e. In the Individually Designed *Minor*, the policy states that at least 12 of the required 21 minimum credits shall not yet have been completed and at least two courses must be resident credit courses. For the Individually Designed *Major*, at least 18 of the required credits shall not yet have been completed. All students must complete the required 30 resident credit degree requirement. Adding the “not yet have been completed” requirement to the Individually Designed Major and Minor doesn’t add to the value to the degree.

II. Current Policy Language:

Campus Individually Designed Major: This is done with timely advice and guidance from the student’s advisor and 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.

Distance Learning Center Individually Designed Major: 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.

For both the Campus Individually Designed Major and the Distance Learning Individually Designed Major, at least 18 credits in the proposed major shall not yet have been completed.

For the Individually Designed Minor, The proposed minor must include at least 21 credits; at least 12 of these credits shall not yet have been completed. The proposal requires the approval of the student's advisor and the appropriate department chair.

III. Draft Policy Statement:

The Interdisciplinary Studies ***Major*** is developed with guidance from an advisor and faculty in the disciplines of the major. The University offers IDS 300, Individualized Educational Planning, to assist students in designing the major. The approval process for the major includes the advisor and faculty members from each of the selected academic areas of study as assigned by the Department Chair, with final submission to the Registrar.

The Interdisciplinary Studies ***Minor*** is developed with guidance from an advisor and faculty in the discipline with the highest number of credits in the minor. The approval process for the minor includes the advisor and faculty chair from the discipline most strongly represented in the minor, with final submission to the Registrar.

All Interdisciplinary Studies Major ***Amendments*** require signature approval from the academic advisor and the faculty chair in the discipline where the change is occurring, with final submission to the Registrar.

IV. Policy Procedures:

See above