

Student Designed Major Application

PROCESS AND PURPOSE

Students with a particular interest in crossing the boundaries of disciplinary majors may design an individualized major of courses selected from the various disciplines which apply to their special interest.

Eligibility Guidelines:

- A student-designed major must be applied for no later than the first quarter of a student's junior year.
- All standards governing a major as described elsewhere in the Undergraduate Catalog (e.g., minimum number of upper-division credits in the major, minimum cumulative GPA for acceptance into the major) will apply to student-designed programs.
- A student must have a minimum SPU cumulative GPA of 3.00 to apply for a student-designed major.

Application Procedures:

This application and the following documents are to be submitted together to your advisor:

- Transcripts from all colleges attended, including SPU
- *If this proposal represents a major offered at another institution (not SPU), attach a photocopy of the catalog material describing such a program.*
- *If your proposal involves licensing, certification, and/or competency requirements, attach a copy of all certification requirements.*
- *If your proposal already has a prescribed curriculum set up by a discipline or school, attach the curriculum description.*

Advisor Responsibilities:

The advisor must be in one of the fields included in the student's proposal and should have had the student in class.

- The advisor's signature on the attached form affirms that the specific configuration of courses submitted are academically defensible as a major and are on par with established majors at SPU.
- The advisor should work with the student in designing the title of the major, and the title should specify in all documents that this is a Student-Designed Major (example: Student-Designed Major in Public Health or Cultural Studies).

Required Approvals:

- No student-designed major will be accepted by the curriculum committees unless it conforms to the standards specified in the Undergraduate Catalog, and contains all required signatures.
- Student-designed majors which involve departments (e.g., School of Business and Economics and College of Arts and Sciences), must be approved by the department chair in each area.

Once a student has discussed a possible special major with a faculty advisor, he/she should submit the attached form, including the proposed program, a statement of purpose and rationale, and evidence of an advisor's and school's approval to the Curriculum Committee. The proposal should include evidence that the student has considered courses or learning experiences, such as internships or independent study, which will provide an opportunity to integrate content and skills from the various disciplines in his/her program. The Curriculum Committee may suggest changes, but once the proposal has been approved by the committee, a contract will be drawn up to be placed in the student's file in Student Academic Services.

STEP I: CURRENT INFORMATION

Name: _____ SPU ID Number: _____
 Phone: _____ SPU email: _____@spu.edu
 Faculty Advisor: _____ School: _____

MAJOR INFORMATION

Title: Student-Designed Major in _____

Please list all other Majors and Minors you are pursuing:

Rationale: Write a short paragraph on each of the following:

1. Career and/or academic goals or other reasons for proposal

2. Unique skills, knowledge, performance competencies that will be gained through this proposal that would not be possible through existing majors.

TO BE COMPLETED BY ADVISOR

Applicant Eligibility: GPA: _____ Credit hours completed at SPU: _____

Class standing: Sophomore / Junior

Major Details: Number of credits in proposed student-designed major: _____

This student-designed major will achieve academic and/or career goals of applicant better than existing majors at SPU or elsewhere: Yes / No

SPU has adequate resources to support the proposal: Yes / No

If no, where will complementary courses be taken? _____

APPROVALS

Faculty Advisor: _____ Date: _____

Department Chair: _____ Date: _____

Dept. to which SD Major should be assigned: _____ Dept. Chair Initials: _____

Additional Department Chair: _____ Date: _____

(Required if proposal involves more than one department, for example, STUDENT-DESIGNED MAJOR IN BUSINESS AND BIOLOGY)

Curriculum Committee: _____ Date: _____

Student Academic Services: _____ Date: _____

STEP II: MAJOR COURSEWORK

List all coursework in proposed major (attach additional page, if necessary):

Course Discipline and Number	Course Title	Institution Granting Credits	Number of Credits	Complete?
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

Describe field work or internship experience(s), if required:

Credit totals (to be completed with faculty advisor):

Total credits in major: _____

Total upper-division credits in major: _____

NOTE: A minimum of 23 upper-division credits must be earned in a major.

Upper-division credits in major at SPU: _____

NOTE: A minimum of 15 upper-division credits in a major must be earned at SPU.

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Faculty Advisor's Signature: _____

Date: _____