INDEPENDENT MAJOR

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While housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, the independent major is open to any undergraduate student regardless of school. In this program, students will design a unique major to fit their individual goals. The student is responsible for proposing and planning the course of study. The proposal must contain suitable justification and a coherent curricular plan. The full proposal must be submitted to the director of the Collaborative for Interdisciplinary/Integrative Studies for approval by no later than the first semester of the junior year and also must have the approval of a three-member faculty committee, chosen by the student, which works with the student to plan and carry out the program. Program proposals will be accepted before March 1 for review in the spring semester, and before October 15 for review in the fall semester.

Curriculum

The independent major is designed for any undergraduate student who would like to focus their attention in a specific area of study not currently offered by the university. Independent major programs are designed individually by students, in consultation with a faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences. Therefore, the curriculum for this major will vary by student. All independent majors must meet the following criteria:

• The major must consist of a minimum of 30 credits (may include some courses already completed).
• No fewer than 24 of the 30 credits must be at the 300 level or above. Note: CAS 420 does not count.
• The major plan must include a final assessment, which can take the form of a class or a project. The final assessment plan must be submitted by the second half of the junior year, and the assessment itself must be evaluated by the student’s committee at the end of the senior year.
• All University Curriculum (http://catalog.qu.edu/academics/university-curriculum/) requirements must be completed, outside the major.
• Students in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete the foreign language requirement.
• Any minor requirements must be completed outside the major.

Student Learning Outcomes

With an individually designed curriculum, specific student learning outcomes vary. Every student works toward the following outcomes through the proposal process alone.

1. Effective Communication: Communicate effectively in speaking and in writing.
2. Social Intelligence: Engage collaboratively and responsibly; interact attentively and appropriately with others.
4. Critical and Creative Thinking: Think independently and creatively from an informed understanding.
5. Analysis: Demonstrate competency in evaluating and constructing arguments based on logic and evidence.