Individually Designed Majors and Individually Designed Honors Program in Humanities

New students are not being accepted into the Individually Designed Major or the Individually Designed Honors Program in Humanities. Students who have already been accepted into these programs may complete their course of study.

The Individually Designed Major (IDM) is overseen by the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies in the School of Humanities and Sciences. (See the "Individually Designed Majors in Engineering (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/archive/2013-14/schoolofengineering/#majorstext-indidesimajoengidme)" section of this bulletin for information about the IDM in Engineering.)

The IDM is intended for exceptional undergraduates interested in pursuing an area of study that, by virtue of its focus and intellectual content, cannot be accommodated by existing departmental or programmatic majors. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.5, and the IDM cannot be a student’s secondary major. IDM curricula are designed by students with the assistance of three faculty members of their choice; all advisers must be members of the Academic Council.

IDM programs must meet the following requirements:
1. A minimum of 75 units, with all courses at or above the 100 level.
2. A maximum of 5 units on a credit/no credit basis.
3. A maximum of 8 units in directed reading or independent study, prior approval required.
4. A core sequence in the department of one of the advisers.
5. A WIM course in the department of one of the advisers.
6. None of the units may count towards another major, minor, or other special program.

Any changes to a previously approved IDM must be endorsed by the primary adviser and approved by the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies. A request by a student to make changes in his or her approved curriculum must be made sufficiently far in advance so that, should the request be denied, adequate time remains to complete the original, approved curriculum.

Individually Designed Honors Program in Humanities

The Individually Designed Honors Program (IDHP) in Humanities is overseen by the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies in the School of Humanities and Sciences. This program is available to exceptional students who wish to complete an honors thesis in the humanities and to have the notation “Honors in Humanities” recorded on their diplomas and transcripts in addition to their primary degree. This program is also available to students completing an Individually Designed Major. The requirements for the IDHP are as follows:
1. A minimum GPA of 3.5. Students must maintain a 3.5 GPA throughout the course of their Stanford undergraduate career.
2. Students must select two advisers for the honors thesis who are members of the Academic Council, at least one of whom is not from the student’s major department. Both faculty members must be from humanities and arts departments.
3. Students majoring in a humanities or arts department must complete 25 additional units in the humanities and arts, chosen from areas outside of the major department. Areas of concentration include arts, literature, history, and philosophy. Courses must be chosen in consultation with the student’s advisers, and a potential list of such courses submitted with the proposal.
4. Students majoring in a non-humanities and arts department must complete the equivalent of a minor in one humanities and arts department, and an additional 10 units in another. Winter-Spring IHUM courses (no longer offered) may be used to satisfy part of this requirement. Courses must be chosen in consultation with the student’s advisers, and a potential list of such courses must be submitted with the proposal.
5. Students must complete a capstone, majors seminar, or honors seminar in a humanities and arts department.
6. The honors thesis may be taken for a minimum of 5 units up to a maximum of 10 units. These units must be in addition to the requirements above. The student should determine the size and scope of the thesis in consultation with his or her advisers.
7. Students should consult with the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies in the School of Humanities and Sciences before submitting a proposal.
8. All proposals must be submitted no later than the third week of Autumn Quarter in the student’s junior year and preferably by Spring Quarter of the sophomore year. The H&S Curriculum Committee in the Humanities and Arts reviews and approves all proposals.