

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A student who has clearly defined objectives that lie outside an established academic department may design a proposal for a major in an individualized academic program, one that helps the student fulfill his or her objectives. This proposal will be designed with the aid of the Individual Majors Committee.

Information about proposal procedures and guidelines may be obtained from the dean's office in the College of Arts and Sciences. The design of the major is done by the student in conference with an advisory committee of three full-time faculty members, from at least two different departments of the college.

The proposal is approved by the Individual Majors Committee and by the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The proposal must be approved and filed with the Office of Records no later than the beginning of the second quarter during the student's junior year. Any subsequent changes must be approved by the advisory committee and the chairperson of the Individual Majors Committee. The program must have a descriptive title that will appear on the diploma.

This program is open to students who are currently registered at La Sierra University, who are in good academic standing, and who still have five full quarters (80 units) to complete before graduation.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1. The proposed major must constitute a coherent academic program. It must fulfill the student's objectives and achieve a clear academic goal.
2. The proposed major must be comparable in quality and academic rigor to other major programs offered at La Sierra University and should be compatible with a liberal arts education. It must achieve both breadth and depth within the academic disciplines studied.
3. The proposed major is to make use of available university resources, courses currently offered, and faculty interests and capabilities.
4. Generally:
 - A. The proposed major must require a minimum of 60 quarter units.
 - B. No more than 12 of the 60 units are allowed to overlap with general education requirements.
 - C. At least 30 quarter units of the proposed major must be in upper division courses.
 - D. No more than 5 quarter units of directed study are to be allowed in the proposed major. A senior thesis may be part of the major requirement and is not included in the 5-unit directed study limit.
5. The student must have at least 80 quarter units still to complete before graduation at the time of approval of the proposal.
6. The chairman of the student's advisory committee is the student's academic advisor.
7. In approving an individual major, there is no implied guarantee by the University that the courses specified, or substitutions for those courses, will be available at the time specified in the proposal.
8. In fulfilling its function, the Individual Majors Committee is certifying the academic quality of the individual major. The committee may require revision in the proposal, reject it, allow or require changes in the general requirements listed above, and/or may recommend changes in the student's advisory committee.

INDIVIDUAL MAJOR

Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Science

PROGRAM PROPOSAL

The chairperson of the Individual Majors Committee will also discuss the proposal with the student and may make recommendations on members of an advisory committee.

The proposal should include the following:

1. A statement of objectives. This should be in sufficient detail to inform the committee of what the student has in mind and what is expected to be achieved by the proposed major.
2. A rationale for the program. If there are items in support of the proposal, e.g., a portfolio on related studies, description of related work experience, writings, etc., it is appropriate to include these in support of the rationale.
3. A list of the required courses and any cognates for the major. In addition, the sequence in which these courses are to be taken should be included. If a senior thesis is part of the program, then a general statement should be provided as to a possible subject for that thesis.
4. The proposal is to be signed by the members of the advisory committee. On a separate page, each member of the committee should give an appraisal of the viability of the proposed major.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Websites

La Sierra University
www.lasierra.edu

College of Arts & Sciences
www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=243

Faculty

Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences
Adeny Schmidt, Ph.D.

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Contact Information

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