Special Interdisciplinary Major
Degree: BA, BS (determined by committee)
2011 - 2012 Curriculum Guide
Contact Person: Associate Academic Dean Alyce DeMarais (Jones 212)

Steps in the Development of a Special Interdisciplinary Major

Students interested in pursuing the Special Interdisciplinary Major (SIM) must do the following:
1. Create a SIM advisory committee composed of three faculty members from departments or programs appropriate to the topic, including one as the principal faculty advisor.
2. With the SIM advisory committee, develop a SIM application (see reverse).
3. Submit the proposal to the Curriculum Committee no later than first term, junior year. Proposals submitted to the Curriculum Committee by October 1 or February 15 will be acted upon before registration for the following term.
4. Complete the program plan approved by the Curriculum Committee. Modifications to the approved SIM program require approval by the SIM Advisory Committee and the Curriculum Committee. The Registrar will be notified of any modifications to the approved SIM program.

Prerequisites
A student must have completed twelve (12) units at Puget Sound before applying for the SIM earning a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 and have completed at least four (4) units of coursework relevant to the SIM before submitting a proposal.

Requirements for the Special Interdisciplinary Major
1. A minimum of 12 courses, of which 10 must be at the 200 level or above and of which 6 must be at the 300 level or above. The major may not exceed 16 units.
2. Nine of the 12 required courses must be completed at the Tacoma campus.
3. No more than 2 Independent Study units may be applied to the SIM. If 2 Independent Studies are proposed, one must focus on the integration of the fields within the SIM.
4. A Senior Project (SIM 490). Public presentation is required in the second semester, senior year.
5. A grade of C or higher in each course applied to the SIM.

Application
A. The student and faculty committee prepare a proposal for a degree plan that includes the following:
   - the title of the degree and a list of courses with departmental signoff when the course will be offered. (use the checklist form
   - educational objectives of the degree and a discussion of how the proposed major will meet the objectives
   - an explanation of how particular courses in the proposed degree program will address the requirement of a thorough grounding in methodology in the contributing disciplines, of breadth within the major, and of depth within the major
   - an explanation of how existing majors and programs are not adequate to meet the educational objectives of the proposed SIM
   - an explanation of how the proposed major will serve the student's broader academic and career goals
   - a statement of how the proposed major compares to established majors in the same field at other institutions
   - a recommendation of whether the degree awarded should be a BA or a BS.
B. Faculty oversight of the SIM is essential to its success and to the Curriculum Committee's evaluation of the proposed major. The application will include a letter from each faculty member on the proposed SIM advisory committee evaluating the merits of the proposal and specifically addressing the following:
   - an explanation of how particular courses in the proposed degree program will address the requirement of a thorough grounding in methodology in the contributing disciplines, of breadth within the major, and of depth within the major
   - faculty preparation to support the proposed degree program.
C. The principal advisor forwards the completed package (proposal, letters, student transcript) to the Curriculum Committee for approval.

Only complete applications can be considered.