

# THE UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND

## 2020-2021 CURRICULUM GUIDE

### SPECIAL INTERDISCIPLINARY MAJOR

DEGREE: BA OR BS

CONTACT PERSON: JULIE CHRISTOPH

### 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. At least one of the committee members must have their primary appointment in a department or program different from that of the principal advisor.
2. With the SIM advisory committee, develop a SIM application (see below).
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. The student must also 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. Nine of the 12 required courses must be completed at the Tacoma campus.
2. 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.
3. A Senior Project (SIM 490). Public presentation is required in the second semester, senior year.
4. 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. (See reverse).
  - 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.
  - applicants must offer an explanation of whether the B.A. or BS that at minimum addresses the type of degree typically granted by the disciplines represented or for a similar degree at other universities and, if a BS is proposed, the extent to which the proposed SIM prepares the candidate to do advanced research.
- 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.
  - A plan for how frequently the student, advisor, and full committee will meet (with an expectation that the full committee will meet at least once per year, excluding their presence of the student's public presentation of research.
- C. The principal advisor forwards the completed package (proposal, letters, student transcript) to the Curriculum Committee for approval.

**Only complete applications can be considered.**

# Special Interdisciplinary Major Proposal

Student (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

CMB: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisory Committee (indicate advisor)

*Faculty member*

*Department*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Title of proposed major: \_\_\_\_\_

*Degree recommendation (circle): BA BS*

Proposed courses for major	Dept./ Number	Title	Already Taken (indicate term)	When will course be taken	Department sign off **
<i>100 level courses</i>					
1					
2					
3					
<i>200 level courses</i>					
1					
2					
3					
<i>300 level courses</i>					
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
<i>400 level courses</i>					
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
SIM 490 (1 unit)***					

\*\*The Chair of the department offering the course must sign off that this course will be definitely offered in the term indicated.

\*\*\*The full faculty committee is responsible for oversight of the senior thesis.

**THIS FORM IS NOT AN OFFICIAL GRADUATION ANALYSIS.**