

Guidelines for faculty advisers of students proposing a School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) Interdepartmental Studies major (BA)

As a faculty adviser to a student proposing an interdepartmental studies major, you will be asked to attest to the strength of the student's proposal as part of the proposal process. Please see the Faculty Recommendation form available from the SAS Interdepartmental Studies website.

Proposals are more likely to be well crafted when a student seeks advice from faculty well in advance of the proposal deadline. Students may also work with the interdepartmental program adviser.

All faculty forms for the interdepartmental studies major should be submitted directly to the interdepartmental program adviser.

Discussion topics for students considering interdepartmental studies majors:

- Why are they considering an interdepartmental studies major?
- Can their academic goals be achieved by completing an existing major? a combination of existing programs of study (majors, minors, certificates)?
- What courses in your department are related to the student's academic interests?
- What courses in other departments are related to the student's academic interests?
- What about including an independent study or internship?
- Future plans, including graduate or professional school, work, etc.

Some reasons for which a proposal might be rejected by the review committee:

- The program is a watered-down version of an existing major or minor.
- The student doesn't 'like' any major offered by University of Rochester.
- The proposal consists of courses from only one department.
- It is pre-professional in nature, e.g. Accounting, Physical Therapy
- It contains too many courses from outside the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS). These include courses from the Simon School, the Warner School, Eastman School of Music, courses taken at other domestic or overseas colleges or universities, study abroad programs.
- The essays are poorly written.
- The reasons for proposing the major are poorly justified.
- The major's concentration title is not supported by the courses (or vice-versa) e.g., 'Theories of Globalization' that contains no theory-related coursework.
- The student has not yet completed any of the proposed courses.
- The students has done poorly (less than C average) in the proposed courses.

[continued]

Role of faculty adviser for students whose proposals are approved by the Committee on Individualized Interdepartmental Programs (CIIP):

- Continued guidance regarding progress in the major, possible changes to the approved courses due to cancellation, new course offerings, etc.
- Consultation and approval (or not) if the student proposes a change to the approved program.

If both faculty advisers agree that the request change is appropriate, the student fills out the Request for Changes form which is available from the SAS Interdepartmental Studies website (<https://www.sas.rochester.edu/interdepartmental/index.html>.) Completed forms are submitted directly to the interdepartmental studies program advisor and reviewed by the Committee on Individualized Interdepartmental Programs (CIIP).

- Advises about applying for Interdepartmental Studies Research Honors, if applicable.