

Guidelines for faculty advisers of students proposing interdepartmental majors or minors

As an advisor to a student proposing an interdepartmental program, you will be asked to attest to the strength of the student's proposal.

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 talk to advisors in the Multidisciplinary Studies Center (Lattimore 203).

Discussion topics for students considering interdepartmental majors or minors:

- Why are they considering this interdepartmental option?
- Can their academic goals be achieved by completing an existing major? a combination of existing majors or minors? a certificate? the KEY program? Take Five program? the Senior Scholars Research Program?
- What courses in your department are related to the student's academic interests?
- What courses in other departments?
- 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:

- The program is a watered-down version of an existing major or minor.
- The student doesn't 'like' any major offered by UR.
- 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 College of Arts and Sciences. 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 program title isn't 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.

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Role of faculty adviser for students whose proposals are approved:

- 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 major advisers agree that the change is appropriate, or if the minor adviser approves, the student fills out the appropriate form (available from the Multidisciplinary Studies Center in Lattimore 203). It is signed and dated by the adviser(s), and then submitted for review.

- Advises about applying for Honors in the major, if applicable.