

HOW TO PETITION FOR AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONCENTRATION

Most students declare a single concentration in one department. Some students find, however, that their interests and career ambitions are not satisfied by the structure of a single department, and instead wish to design their own concentrations using the courses of several departments. All interdisciplinary concentrations require special permission from the Committee on Academic Standing.

A proposal for an interdisciplinary concentration includes five documents:

1. **A cover sheet with signatures of appropriate faculty** – The other materials should be prepared before you seek signatures so that faculty members can assess your program and decide whether to endorse it.

2. **An explanation of the concentration** – An interdisciplinary concentration integrates courses from at least two departments into a coherent logical whole. You cannot design a personal concentration within a single department in order to avoid departmental requirements. Your proposal should, therefore, make clear how the pieces of the various disciplines fit together, and should show an orderly progression of increasingly difficult courses. Proposals which paste together numerous introductory courses are unlikely to be approved. The concentration should culminate in a senior project which integrates previous courses, and your junior year should be planned to prepare for that project. In 1-3 typed pages, you should define the concentration, state your goals, explain why these goals cannot be as efficiently achieved by a regular concentration and minor, and justify your desire for a special, individual course of study. Your goals should be numbered and should focus on the following questions: *What do you plan to achieve with your major? What particular skills do you intend to gain? What body of knowledge do you hope to master?* If you intend to declare a minor, explain. Remember that your statement will be evaluated by faculty members who will notice and be displeased with mistakes in spelling and grammar.

3. **A goals sheet** – The Committee on Academic Standing expects to see at least two courses in each goals category; each course should appear only once on the sheet. If you have not yet met a goal, note how and when you intend to meet it. You may supplement lists of courses with explanations of how you have interpreted or satisfied the goals in ways which are uniquely your own. The Committee on Academic Standing is generally more receptive to the student who satisfies the goals using a variety of departments than to the person who uses only a few.

4. **A chronological plan** – You must demonstrate to the Committee that your plans can be realized within the time available. List all courses, including those for concentration, minor, and goals.

5. **A statement of support from proposed concentration advisor** – A statement of support from the proposed Interdisciplinary Concentration Advisor is required.

NAME: _____ CLASS YEAR: _____

CONCENTRATION: _____

MINOR: _____

Year	Courses for Concentration	Courses for Minor	Courses for Goals (Show goal number next to course)
First Year			
Second Year			
Third Year			
Fourth Year			

REPORT ON PROGRESS AND PLAN FOR COMPLETION OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

A. The Writing Program requires that each student pass at least three writing-intensive courses, each taken in a different semester, with at least one course outside your areas of concentration. Only one of the three required writing-intensive courses may be a course in mathematics or courses in which assignments are written in a language other than English. Requirement must be completed by the end of the junior year.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

B. Sophomore Seminar to be completed no later than the end of the first semester of the junior year.

1) _____