

2009-2010 DESCRIPTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL MAJOR

A currently registered student who has clearly defined objectives that lie outside an established academic department may, with the aid of the Dean's Committee on Individual Majors, make a proposal for a major program in fulfillment of those objectives. Any student in good academic standing with at least five full quarters (80 units) to complete before graduation is free to participate. Information about proposal procedures and guidelines may be obtained from the office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The major is designed by the student in conference with an advisory committee of three full-time faculty members from at least two different departments of the college. The proposal is approved by the Dean's Committee on Individual Majors and by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The proposal must be approved and filed with the Office of Admissions and Records no later than the beginning of the second quarter of the student's junior year.

GUIDELINES FOR THE INDIVIDUAL MAJOR

1. The proposed major must constitute a coherent academic program. It must fulfill the student's objectives and achieve a clear academic goal.
2. The proposed major must be comparable in quality and academic rigor to other major programs offered at La Sierra University. It must achieve both breadth and depth within the academic disciplines studied and be compatible with a liberal arts education.
3. The proposed major is to make use of available University resources, courses currently offered, and faculty interests and capabilities.
4. Students should submit their proposals during their sophomore year. They will be accepted no later than the second quarter of the junior year.
5. Generally:
 - a. The proposed major must require a minimum of 60 quarter units.
 - b. No more than 12 of the 60 units are allowed to overlap with general education requirements.
 - c. At least 30 quarter units of the proposed major must be in upper division courses. No more than 5 quarter units of directed study are to be allowed in the proposed major. A senior thesis may be a part of the major requirement and is not included in the 5-unit limit.
6. The chairman of the student's advisory committee is the student's academic advisor.
7. In approving an individual major, there is no implied guarantee by the university that the courses specified, or substitutions for them, will be available at the time specified in the proposal.
8. In fulfilling its function, the Dean's Committee on proposed Individual Majors is certifying the academic quality of the individual major. It may require revision in the proposal, may reject it, may allow or require changes in the general requirements above, and may recommend changes in the student's advisory committee. The chairperson of the Dean's Committee on Individual Majors will discuss the proposal with the student and may recommend members for an advisory committee.

For proposal guidelines, see the next page.

INDIVIDUAL MAJORS

B.A. Degree

GUIDELINES FOR THE PROPOSAL

1. A statement of objectives. This should be in sufficient detail to inform the committee of what the student has in mind and what is expected to be achieved by the major proposed.
2. A rationale for the program. If there are items in support of the proposal, e.g., a portfolio on related studies, description of related work experience, writings, etc., it is appropriate to include these in support of the rationale.
3. A list of the required courses for the major and any required cognates. The sequence in which the courses are to be taken should also be included. If a senior thesis is part of the program, a general statement as to a possible subject for the senior thesis should be included.
4. The proposal is to be signed by the members of the advisory committee. On a separate page each member of the committee should give an appraisal of the viability of the proposed major.

Any subsequent changes must be approved by the advisory committee and the chairperson of the Dean's Committee.

The proposal must have a descriptive title that will appear on the diploma.

SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Websites:

La Sierra University

<http://www.lasierra.edu/>

Committee Contact:

Chairperson:

Suzanne Mallery

Associate Professor of Psychology

smallery@lasierra.edu

Location:

Ambs Hall, Rm 113

951-785-2099 (Dept. secretary)

Academic Advising
Center for Student Academic Success
Sierra Vista Hall, Room 114
(951) 785-2452

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