

**Q: What is an individualized major?**

A: An individualized major (IMJR) is a self-designed, thematically-focused, interdisciplinary major. It offers you the opportunity to tailor a program of study to fit your particular set of interests. It consists of at least 36 credits of courses at the 2000-level or higher from two or more departments. As long as 18 credits are drawn from courses in the degree-granting college, relevant courses may be taken in the other schools and colleges of the University.

*The following examples of individualized majors give an idea of the work done by students through our program. We cannot stress enough how important internships, work experience, study abroad, research, and independent study are to the design of an individualized major.*

**• Social & International Studies:**

Asian Studies; Consumer Behavior; Criminal Behavior; Environmental Policy; European Studies; International Relations; International Trade; Human Rights; Judaic Studies; Law & Society; Middle East Studies; Peace Studies; Public Policy; Sport Promotion.

**• Health & Science:**

Animal Behavior; Community Health, Counseling & Genetics; Forensic Science; Health & Poverty Studies; Health & Society; Marine Biology; Maternal & Infant Health; Neuroscience; Chemical Oceanography.

**• Creative:**

American Sign Language; Creative Writing; Film Studies; Technical Writing; Social Justice and Visual Media.

*These major titles only hint at the full range of possibilities!*

**Q: Who will help me develop this plan of study?**

A: Staff of the Individualized Major Program will help you define your focus and choose your courses. They will also help you identify three faculty members from different departments for further guidance. Many professors have experience working with IMJR students, and your faculty advisors will advise you until you graduate.

**Q: When can I declare an IMJR?**

A: You can meet with an advisor to discuss your plans as early as your first semester. You can declare any time after earning your first 30 credits, but you must submit your plan of study at least a year prior to graduation.

**Q: How do I declare an IMJR?**

A: The office of the Individualized Major Program and faculty advisors will help you as you prepare a plan of study and statement of purpose. Students then present their endorsed plan of study and statement of purpose to the Individualized Major Committee for final approval.

**Q: What is acceptance based on?**

A: Acceptance is based on the student’s academic record, a coherent interdisciplinary plan of study, statement of purpose, and presentation to the committee.

**Q. Can I incorporate Study Abroad courses or an internship in my individualized major?**

Yes. The Individualized Major Program strongly encourages all students to include an internship, field experience and/or study abroad in their plans of study. The knowledge and skills you acquire through such experiences offer you

invaluable insights that will enrich your education and prepare you better for graduate school and career.

**Q: What will my diploma say?**

A: It will say that you earned a B.A. or B.S. from the College in which you are enrolled and that you completed an individualized major. It will record the title approved for your major. The same information will appear on your transcript.

**Q: Will I be employable if I do not have a traditional major?**

A: Yes. Employers like graduates who have the initiative, motivation, and creativity to join our program. Individualized majors design their own major; convince three faculty advisors to support the concept; make a proposal presentation to a faculty committee; and follow the individualized plan through to a successful conclusion. Quite impressive!

**Q: What qualifications are required for the Program?**

A: Requirements vary.

	Admission	Graduation
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS)	TGPA: 2.0	MGPA: 2.5 TGPA: 2.0
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR)	TGPA: 2.5	MGPA: 2.5 TGPA: 2.0

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Over 1650 students have graduated with an Individualized Major since 1974 when it was first created. Graduates surveyed place most value on the flexibility allowed by the program, the opportunity for personal and academic growth, and the uniqueness of the student experience.

*More than 30% of individualized majors study abroad*

*About 50% of individualized majors complete internships*

*More than 20% of individualized majors graduate with honors*

**After graduation, individualized majors have gone directly into graduate programs in:**

Mental health in the Deaf community, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

Religion, Columbia University, New York City

Political Science, Emory University, Atlanta

Earth and Environmental Sciences, Wesleyan University

Medicine, UConn

Pathobiology, Brown University

Social Work, Columbia University

Public Administration, UConn

Law, New York University

Behavioural Neuroscience, University of British Columbia

Sport Management, UConn

Historical Studies, New School, New York

**After graduation, individualized majors' first jobs have included:**

Non-Proliferation Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Corporate Merchandise Training Program, TJX

Laboratory Technician, Marine Biology Lab, Yale University

Peace Corps, Asia

Scheduler and Assistant to the Chief of Staff, N.Y. Senator's Office, Washington, D.C.

Owner, Dog Training Business, New Hampshire

Teach for America, Hawaii

"IMJR is a great opportunity to cater your education to your interests. Using IMJR to specialize in an area or create a major that did not exist before allows you the freedom and opportunity to further explore your personal interests."

**-Galina Portnoy, '06, Women and Health**

**For More Information Please Contact:**

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## INDIVIDUALIZED MAJOR PROGRAM



*Find Your Way*

University of Connecticut

Individualized & Interdisciplinary  
Studies Program

*Individualized Majors are granted by the following colleges at UConn:*

**College of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**