

## Simpson Independent Interdisciplinary Major (IIM) Checklist and Procedure

- Obtain a current *Independent Interdisciplinary Major (IIM) Application and Checklist and Procedure* (available on-line at: <https://simpson.edu/internal/interdisciplinary-studies-major-iim>). *If at any time you have questions about the process, please contact the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies ([link to program directors](#)).*
- Before you apply check this information:
  - You have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
  - You have completed between 32 and 80 credits toward the Simpson degree.
  - Your desired major cohesively addresses a topic, theme, issue or set of questions that cross traditional interdisciplinary boundaries and cannot be adequately addressed within a single existing Simpson major.
- Select the topic of your Independent Interdisciplinary Major. Review the catalog to identify a broad list of courses applicable to your topic. Your course list must include a balance of courses from at least two departments (see application for more details). You will need to select 10 courses for your final degree plus a Capstone Experience. You should also choose alternative courses to allow for flexibility in case of changes in offerings or scheduling conflicts.
- Contact the chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program (can be found on the website above) to discuss your intent to apply for an IIM. The Chair can answer questions and give advice on how to complete this checklist.
- Identify three faculty to serve as your IIM Academic Advisory Committee (usually faculty members teaching some of the courses selected for your major). These will be faculty members who help you design and execute your IIM and make sure it is academically sound.
- Provide your IIM Academic Advisory Committee with this checklist, a copy of your transcript or degree audit, a draft of the IIM application and a draft of the courses for the major. Work with them to finalize the application.
- Discuss the nature of the Capstone Experience with your IIM Academic Advisory Committee. A Capstone Experience might be an existing upper-level course, an independent project (IntSt 385), an independently designed research project (IntSt 398), an internship or other experience. Select a faculty sponsor for the Capstone Experience, usually one of your IIM Academic Advisory Committee.
- Review options for the title of your program with your IIM Academic Advisory Committee and the Chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program.
- A strong application will include evidence of comparable majors offered at other colleges and universities. In the narrative of the application, discuss the integrity of the topic with regard to established scholarly fields of inquiry, your intellectual and academic goals and post-Simpson plans, how each course contributes to the curriculum and to meeting your intellectual goals, and why this major is more desirable than a combination of majors and/or minors already offered at Simpson.
- Ask two members of your IIM Academic Advisory Committee to write letters of recommendation to verify that you demonstrate seriousness of purpose and an ability to work independently and in a dialogue with faculty advisors.
- Submit the final application to the [Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program](#).

After you submit the application, here is what you should expect.

- The Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program may ask to meet with you individually.
- The faculty of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program will meet with you about the application. This will be an advisory meeting. The program does not make the final decision on your application.
- You will be asked to meet with the Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee (EPCC). EPCC consists of faculty from across campus and student representatives. After you meet with EPCC, they will vote to approve your IIM.
- If EPCC approves the IIM, the Registrar's office will then build a degree audit for you.