

TO: UGCC – Meeting February 2009
FROM: Alan Rosiene, Department of Humanities & Communication
SUBJECT: Individualized Studies Major & Concentrations

The Humanities and Communication Department proposes the addition of an Individualized Studies Major with two Concentrations to begin Fall 2009.

The attached document provides a detailed rationale for the IS Major and descriptions of the two Concentrations.

At this time we are proposing only the IS Major and the Minor Combination Option. The Pre-Law Concentration will be proposed as soon as syllabi are developed for the three new courses the Concentration requires: Introduction to Law, Constitutional Law I, and Constitutional Law II. New course forms for these courses will accompany the proposal for the Pre-Law Concentration.

We have not provided a flow chart for the Minor Combination Option because the very nature of the Option precludes such a chart. We will offer a flow chart for the Pre-Law Concentration when it is proposed.

Department Head Taylor and Dean Kenkel have signed the forms for the IS Major and Minor Combination Option. It is our understanding that the Provost has received the business plan for the IS Major and will approve it.

Alan Rosiene
Assistant Department Head
Humanities and Communication

Individualized Studies (IS) Major
Proposal for a New Major
in the Department of Humanities and Communication

CASE STATEMENT

Program Relevance

An Individualized Studies (IS) major is consistent with the Florida Tech mission in that it would “serve the diverse needs of our local, state, national, and international constituencies.” It would enable these students to pursue learning options not met by existing Florida Tech majors. As the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts and the Humanities and Communication Department are interdisciplinary by their very nature, an Individualized Studies major is a good fit for both.

Students selecting the IS major must complete the major’s core requirements and either (a) one of the concentrations defined for the major, or (b) all the requirements of two existing Florida Tech minors. In contrast to IS programs offered at some other universities, Florida Tech IS majors will not be allowed to “customize” their degree.

The first IS concentration to be proposed is a pre-law concentration, defined in the attached proposal. Over time, other concentrations likely will be proposed. The IS major will be a “testing ground” for new concentrations, determining whether there are sufficient demand and adequate resources for the concentrations to develop into majors.

Program Demand

The market for the Individualized Studies major will be local, state, and national. International student interest would be impacted by which concentration students might select. Ten students (8 freshmen, 2 transfer) are expected to enroll in the first year in the IS major with the pre-law concentration. With aggressive marketing, the program will take hold and grow with time. In five years, it is anticipated that there will be a total of 40 students in the IS major (pre-law concentration).

Numerous colleges and universities offer Individualized Studies majors. Many well known schools, like New York University, have robust programs. With the number of programs already in existence, the forecasts for the popularity for individualized studies seem favorable. It certainly would appeal to students who want a more personally “customized” education, as well as transfer students who likely will be able to transfer in more courses for the major. Non-traditional students interested in attending part-time also would be candidates for the program.

Employment opportunities with an Individualized Studies major should be about the same as most four-year majors. This will be impacted by which plan of study they select; those in the pre-law concentration likely will continue on to law school. No graduate program in Individualized Studies is foreseen in the near future. An internship requirement would be dependent on the chosen concentration.

Competition

Competitive universities offer this program, and they tend to be successful. The Florida Tech Individualized Studies program would be different in that students could select from various concentrations, like pre-law or international studies, that interests them. Florida Tech's small classes, quality instructors, and vibrant high-tech atmosphere would set the program apart from many others.

Academic Requirements/Considerations

Entrance requirements for the Individualized Studies major would be the same as any Florida Tech, CoPLA, or Humanities and Communication Department offering. The new program would not be a substantive change according to SACS, and is in line with the university's accreditation.

The new Individualized Studies program does not compete with any existing Florida Tech program. In fact it should increase enrollments in existing programs as students take classes in those programs for their concentration. It will be assessed by the number of students it attracts and the tuition revenue it raises. Program accreditation will not be required.

Financial Resources/Uses

The Individualized Studies major will be able to support itself financially. No special financial programs such as assistantships or fellowships would be available initially.

No new courses would be needed for the Individualized Studies major itself, but new courses would be necessary for the concentrations (like pre-law). While the major would need no new faculty, the concentrations that would plug into it certainly will. The number depends on the requirements of the individual concentration. Some of these needs may be filled with adjunct faculty.

The overall major could be managed by existing support staff. Resources to boost or create library resources for the individual concentrations may be required. These would be outlined in proposals for the concentrations.

Business/Financial Plan

See specific Individualized Studies Concentrations for student and revenue projections.

INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES MAJOR: PROGRAM PLAN

The four year Individualized Studies major is designed for students who have a personal and/or professional goal that can not be met by existing Florida Tech majors. It gives the student the opportunity to select a course of study customized for their own needs and interests. Undergraduates selecting this major experience a thorough grounding in a variety of academic disciplines. The student choosing the Individualized Studies major must complete: a) all core and graduation requirements of the university, b) the core requirements of the IS major; and c) *either* one of the defined concentrations in the IS major *or* all of the requirements of two (2) existing Florida Tech minors.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for a Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Studies require at least 120 credit hours for graduation as follows:

University Core Requirements (37 credit hours):

Communication	9 credit hours (including COM 1101 and 1102)
Humanities	9 credit hours (including HUM 2051 and 2052)
Mathematics	6 credit hours
Physical and /or Life Science	6 credit hours
Social Science	3 credit hours
Computer Literary	3 credit hours
University Exp.	1 credit hour
<u>Free Electives</u>	9 credit hours

Individualized Studies Core Requirements (36 credit hours)

Foreign Language 12 credit hours (four courses in the same language)

Liberal Arts 12 credit hours

Social Science and/or Business 12 credit hours

Individualized Studies Pre-Law Concentration (38 - 40 credit hours) to be determined in concentration proposals.

OR

Minor Combination Option (38 credit hours)

The student may select two existing Florida Tech minors (see below) to fulfill the concentration portion of the Individualized Studies degree. The combined minors must equal at least 38 credit hours.

Accounting (18 credit hours)

Biology (19 credit hours)

Business Administration (21 credit hours)

Chemistry (20 credit hours)

Communication (19 credit hours)

Computational Mathematics (21 credit hours)

Education (19 credit hours)

Forensic Psychology (19 credit hours)

History (19 credit hours)

Management (18 credit hours)

Management Information Systems (18 credit hours)

Psychology (19 credit hours)

TOTAL CREDITS = 120 - 122

Please provide the following information when requesting a new major or minor (programs and options) to be added to the curriculum. A code will be assigned by the Office of the Registrar and a copy of this form will be mailed to the appropriate department.

COLLEGE _____ SITE(S) _____

DEPARTMENT _____ CAMPUS(ES) _____

PROGRAM TO BE ADDED Major Minor Program/Option/Concentration/Specialization for _____ (degree program)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate of Arts (A.A.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Master of Business Administration (E.M.B.A.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Master of Arts (M.A.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor of Science (B.S.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Master of Education (M.Ed.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Certificate |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Master of Science (M.S.) | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Master of Science in Aviation (M.S.A.) | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Master of Business Administration (P.M.B.A.) | |

PROGRAM TITLE *Restricted to 30 characters, including spaces*

TERM TO BE INITIATED _____ ADVISER FOR NEW PROGRAM _____

ROUTING APPROVALS: 1) Department head/program chair and college dean approve and sign form; 2) Provost approves business plan of the program in terms of financial viability and impact on the university mission, and signs form; 3) Undergraduate Curriculum Committee or Graduate Council approves academics and signs form; 4) Provost gives final approval of program, signs form and forwards to Office of the Registrar.

1) _____ Date
Department Head/Program Chair

3) _____ Date
Chair, Graduate Council

Dean or Associate Dean Date

OR

2) _____ Date
Provost

Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Date

4) _____ Date
Provost

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