**THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MAJOR**

**APPLICATION FORM**

The IDST major is conferred by the School of Arts and Sciences, requires work in at least two departments, and should reflect a liberal arts focus. Because the IDST major is intended for the focused and motivated student, it cannot be combined with another major.

To be eligible for review by the IDST committee, the following application must be completed in full (parts 1-7) and received by the IDST coordinator by **April 1** of the student’s sophomore year. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. No applications will be accepted after April 1.

*Leave this completed application with the IDST Coordinator along with a signed major declaration form.*

**1. Student Information:**

Name

Class

Cum. G.P.A.

G.P.A (preceding semester)

Student Identification Number

UR Email

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**2. Title of Major**:

Consider how it will sound to those reading your transcript; the title should reflect IDST’s liberal arts focus.

**3. Declared/Intended Minor(s) [If none, please leave this section blank.]:**

4. **Degree**: Are you proposing the IDST major as a BS or BA degree? (See requirements here: (https://uofrichmond.coursedog.com/deptsandprograms/as#curriculum-requirements)

**5. Why an IDST major?**

In approximately 500 words, discuss why you are proposing an IDST major. Your response must explicitly answer the question: Why have you not chosen an existing major(s)?

**6. Description of Senior Project**

While specific topics and emphases may shift during the course of your study, please indicate below, in approximately 750-1000 words, the nature of your proposed IDST senior project, accompanied by an annotated list of scholarly references (3-5) relevant to your selected disciplines. We encourage students to incorporate these references into their project description.

Be sure to explain in what ways the project will contribute to the goals of the major as you have described them **and explicitly address how the course selection and your proposed advisors for the IDST major contribute to your ability to complete the senior project.**

**7. Program Curriculum**

The IDST major requires 15 units of course work, including two .5-unit thesis courses taken in the student’s last two semesters (IDST 398/399). Work closely with your thesis advisors to construct a list of the REQUIRED and ELECTIVE courses that will comprise your IDST major. It is recommended that students and advisors work together to devise a list of 10 required courses and 4 elective courses, including an appropriate number of upper-level courses. Note: Students must demonstrate competence in two academic fields by completing all foundational courses in the two primary disciplines in addition to advanced courses.

Since IDST is an A&S major, the *preponderance of courses* should be in the School of Arts and Sciences. Please include the name of each course along with the course number in the table below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course Title** | **Completed/**  **In Progress** | **Required** | **Elective** | **Unit value** |
| IDST 398  (Thesis) |  | ✓ |  | .5 |
| IDST 399  (Thesis) |  | ✓ |  | .5 |
|  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  | ✓ |  |  |
|  |  |  | ✓ |  |
|  |  |  | ✓ |  |
|  |  |  | ✓ |  |
|  |  |  | ✓ |  |

**Please briefly explain why this configuration of courses would be ideal for your program of study.**

***Courses listed here for the major are considered binding. Any changes to this list must be approved by the student’s two thesis advisors and the IDST committee.***

**8.** Students must demonstrate competence in two academic fields by completing all foundational courses in the two primary disciplines in addition to advanced courses. Please identify the two primary academic fields in which you will be working and the courses your advisors have identified as foundational to those fields.

a. Field 1:

Courses:

b. Field 2:

Courses:

**9. Advisors**:

The specific program of study is developed by the student in consultation with two full-time faculty advisors in academic departments at UR with expertise in the students’ subject of inquiry, one of whom must be in the School of Arts and Sciences (who will become the student’s academic advisor). Students are expected to work closely with both advisors to complete all parts of the major proposal application.

Primary Advisor: This person should be a faculty person in a department in the School for Arts and Sciences; they will become your academic advisor upon approval of the IDST major proposal.

Name:

Department:

Department Chair’s Name:

Title:

UR email:

Justification: (In 2-3 sentences each, describe why you chose your primary advisor, focusing particularly on how their research and teaching expertise will add to your major.)

Primary Advisor’s Signature

Department Chair’s Signature

Recommendation form for advisor to be emailed to IDST coordinator. [See website for recommendation form.]

Secondary Advisor: This person must be a faculty person at the University of Richmond; they will work with the primary advisor and the student to round out the interdisciplinary aspects of the major.

Name:

Department:

Department Chair’s Name:

Title:

UR email

Justification: (In 2-3 sentences each, describe why you chose your secondary advisor, focusing particularly on how their research and teaching expertise will add to your major.)

Secondary Advisor’s Signature

Department Chair’s Signature

Recommendation form for advisor to be emailed to IDST coordinator. (Recommendation form Is on website If not attached.)