Swarthmore College  
Office of the Registrar

# INDIVIDUALIZED SPECIAL MAJOR

With permission of the departments concerned, it is possible for a student to plan an individualized special major that includes closely related work in one or more departments. Special majors consist of at least 10 credits and no more than 12 credits. Students with special majors typically complete a minimum of six courses in the primary department or program, omitting some of the breadth requirements of the major field. However, course requirements central to systematic understanding of the major field may not be waived. Students with special majors must complete the major comprehensive requirement, which may consist of a thesis or other written research projects designed to integrate the work across departmental boundaries, or a comprehensive examination. The departments involved collaborate in advising and in the comprehensive examination.

**Special majors need *four* categories of approval. Any change of program or title requires complete re-approval. Submit completed form to the Registrar's Office for final approval and record update.**

1. **Special major title**: Approval required from the chair(s) of all department(s) suggested in the wording of the title, and the Registrar.
2. **Courses**: Approval required from the chair(s) of the relevant department with 2 or more credits listed.
3. **Comprehensive exercise**: Approval required from the chair of the department offering the senior comprehensive exercise for the special major. The comp is usually the same or similar to the comp in the department of the Special Major Advisor.
4. **Faculty Advisor**: Approval required of the faculty member advising the special major. Important Note: This person will be asked to certify major fulfillment in May of the senior year.
5. **Honors Director**: Approval required if you're pursuing an Honors Special Major.
6. **Registrar's Office**: Approval required to update student's record.

NAME ID# GRAD YEAR

TITLE OF SPECIAL MAJOR *(see #1 above):* Check for Honors?

COMPREHENSIVE EXERCISE:

[***NOTE****: form continues on other side*]

List Course Information below. **Important Note**: There is a 10-credit minimum and 12-credit maximum

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Department Number | Course Title | Semester/Year | Credits |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |  |
| 7 |  |  |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |  |  |
| 9 |  |  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |  |  |
| 11 |  |  |  |  |
| 12 |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Special Major Faculty Advisor, Signature, Date | Print Name |
| Comprehensive Exercise Chair, Signature, Date | Print Name |
| Department Chair Signature, Date | Print Name |
| Department Chair Signature, Date | Print Name |
| Department Chair Signature, Date | Print Name |
| Department Chair Signature, Date | Print Name |
| Director of the Honors Program, for Honors Review | Date |
| Registrar, the Major Title Review | Date |

JKH 2/22