

**Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program's
Quick Guide
to the Individually Designed Major**

To find the application: go to Fairfield University website, Academics, CAS, Undergraduate, Majors, then IDM.

1. **Start early**—deadline for the application is at the end of sophomore year.

2. Make sure you have a **minimum 3.0 GPA** overall.

3. Remember an IDM must be an **area of study that is not available as a major**.

If you have contemplated a collection of majors/minors, (for instance a double major), or a major and two minors, **consider formulating your own major that integrates disciplines, under the umbrella of WGSS.**

4. Develop a **rationale** (a requirement!) and provide a set of **“learning outcomes” or broad learning concepts**; identify the **specific goals or skills, values, attitudes** you will achieve.

5. **Know your faculty**—**select two to guide the IDM**, each of whom should part of the WGS program; one is your primary advisor, the other your secondary advisor.

Have **both sign the application**

Meet regularly with them as you progress through the IDM.

Submit your portfolio to both of them once a semester.

6. **Assemble ten courses total; six courses** can come from **one discipline**, at least four from outside that discipline. **Our recommendation: take courses in at least three disciplines**, ideally four or five, to ensure your IDM is truly interdisciplinary.

7. **Identify required courses** essential to your IDM and a **longer list of electives**. **Develop short descriptions** of each and **explain the relevance** of your choices. We recommend taking at least three advanced courses, including the capstone.

8. **Know that the WGSS Senior Capstone Seminar** satisfies the IDM requirement for a senior project and is usually offered in Spring semester.

Another option is an **independent study**, developed in consultation with your advisors and pursued **during your senior year**.

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