

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY

Honors Program

Self-Designed Major and Minor

The Honors Program supports and encourages optional "self-designed" majors or minors for Honors Students. While the traditional departmental majors and minors are the backbone of the University, there are times when cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary majors and minors are both possible and desirable. These majors or minors may require occasional courses taken by cross registration at other local universities, but the first priority is to draw upon the facilities and expertise at John Carroll University.

Creating these "self-designed" majors or minors is not an automatic process, but the process and its results can be very rewarding. The major or minor should be proposed and approved during the student's sophomore year. A proposal should include the following items:

- 1) a rationale for the proposed major or minor, which discusses the basic focus of the program (and thus why a normal major or minor is inadequate), the reasons certain courses are included, and the expected benefits.
- 2) a plan of courses for the junior and senior years, with a list of specific courses and alternative courses should ones specified not be available. Care should be taken in planning this sequences of courses since too many alternatives or too many subsequent requests for alterations can complicate the approval process and invalidate major's or minor's approval.

The proposed program should be constructed in consultation with an advisor and the Director of the Honors Program. The advisor could be the student's freshman/sophomore advisor or another faculty member who is willing to oversee the student's progress toward fulfillment of the requirements. It is best to select an advisor who has some competence in the general area or areas of the proposed major.

The Director of the Honors Program should be consulted when a student is first considering a self-designed major or minor and should be shown drafts of the proposed major or minor as it is being developed.

Once the proposal has been constructed with and approved by an advisor, the proposal is then submitted to the Director of the Honors Program and, subsequently, to the appropriate Dean for their approval.