Students with intellectual and professional interests, which cannot be met by other major and minor programs, may create an independent major. Independent majors are interdisciplinary in nature and are suitable for highly motivated students willing to assume exceptional responsibility for their own education. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 and no more than 66 completed semester hours when applying. Advice from the Director of General Studies may be helpful in designing an independent major. Details concerning final approval for an independent major may be obtained in the office of the Director of General Studies.

**An Independent Major** requires the following:

1. An Application for Independent Major, available from the Director of General Studies, must be completed before the student has earned 66 semester hours. This application also outlines the procedure to be followed for designing and declaring the Independent Major.

2. An interdisciplinary committee of three professors, including one designated as the principal advisor, must be assembled.

3. A curriculum must be designed with help from the committee. That curriculum must include the completion of the General Studies Requirements.

**An Independent Major includes:**

- a minimum of 48 semester hours
- a minimum of 28 semester hours at the 300-400 level
- a capstone seminar
- a capstone interdisciplinary project
- a plan for assessing the completed major

The independent major courses must come from at least three departments, and no more than half may be from any one department. Upper-level courses taken to satisfy the requirements of an independent major will also satisfy the eight-hour advanced studies requirement when the independent major includes at least 12 hours of upper-level courses in three departments and at least two of the four areas listed under Studies in the Arts and Sciences. Students completing an independent major, who designates an advanced GST Seminar as the capstone seminar, must take another GST Seminar to fulfill the General Studies requirements.

No more than four semester hours of independent study may be included. This will usually be used for completion of the capstone interdisciplinary project.