

IS Major/ Minor Statement

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The IS Major Statement is intended to encourage reflection. What would you like to pursue through the IS major and why? What experiences, courses, or ambitions led you to this decision? Taking the time to write such a personal statement helps you to be intentional of the courses you select as well as other activities and experiences you may consider pursuing. The product will be revisited with each new semester and, thus, also serves as a marker of progressive learning and allows you and your advisor to plan your academic, internship, and research experiences appropriately. It is not a formal document written in stone—it is designed to be a work in progress. The sooner you submit it the better your academic experience will be.

The guidelines that follow are intended to assist in the writing of this statement. They will help you organize the statement in a simple, coherent way. The statement should be no more than 2 or 3 pages long. If this is the first time you are doing this, the statement may be somewhat speculative – that is fine.

You should re-visit this statement every semester before an advising session with your IS academic advisor and use it to plan the courses you will take. You should discuss your statement with your advisor (make sure you give a copy of this statement to your advisor as well).

Guidelines

1. Goals and aims of student's major:/minor. You should describe briefly and succinctly (in a few paragraphs) what your interests are and what subjects you want to combine in your program of study. This description should be as specific as possible.

2. Plan for achieving your goals: You should describe how you plan to fulfill your goals. You need to describe the subjects you want to focus on in your curriculum. You should move quickly from the general to the more specific: describe the general area(s), and the specific parts of those areas that interest you. Then describe which courses you will need to complete; give specific examples of courses you have identified as relevant to your plan. Remember that you are attending a university and there may be courses in other divisions that may be pertinent to your plan of study. If you have already begun work in your proposed course of study, you should also describe the courses you have already taken that are relevant to your plans, and clearly explain how together they build towards an interdisciplinary area of study that will allow you to achieve your post graduate goals.

3. Internships and Research Experiences. Internships and Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) are an important part of being a major. You should indicate what internships you contemplate, and when you think you might do them. See the web page: <http://www.lang.edu> for a list of possible internships and communicate with your IS academic advisor about which research or study abroad experiences might be of interest to you and how you intend to complete the requisite background or prerequisite course to be competitive and prepared for the application process involved with these experiences; often REUs and study abroad programs require applications 6-9 months prior to the experience. Please also consult with your academic advisor for an updated list some of internships specific to your interests. You may also develop internship possibilities of your own – again in consultation with your IS advisor.

4. Conferences, Meetings, and Talks. Together conferences, meetings, and talks extend your learning in the classroom in important and meaningful ways and you should consider how to incorporate these into your learning plan. Locally, there are a multitude of freely available seminars offered by every science and math department at local universities that have graduate programs in these fields (NYU, Columbia, CUNY Grad Center, etc). In addition, more interdisciplinary programs host annual conferences on global health, environmental policy (Mount Sinai) etc and The New York Academy of Sciences has programs that merge

science with policy, writing, and society as well as specific sessions in the natural and physical sciences (\$35 student membership). Attendance at these talks allows you to experience the culture of the scientific community and to stay abreast of cutting edge discoveries in these field and areas. In addition, students may want to consider if and when they might want to present some of their own work at these meetings. The AAAS, SENCER, SUNY Case Studies, and other professional societies host meetings on an annual basis or more frequently and many have undergraduate venues in which to showcase work via a poster, talk, or even a journal article. The University Science Club can often fund these experiences as well as the Lang Student Union.

5. Post-B.A. goals: If your interest in the program is motivated by an interest in further studies, or inspired by professional goals, you may discuss those at the beginning and again at the end of the statement. (For a list of past IS major's biographies please see the end of this document.)

6. Style: The statement should be written simply and concretely, so that it is easily comprehensible. The path statement does not require a lengthy exploration of all of your interest and talents, an entire academic subject, your philosophy of life, or your philosophy of education, but should you feel this important to share, provide some background.

EUGENE LANG COLLEGE
PROGRAM REQUIREMENT EVALUATION
INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE MAJOR
<http://www.newschool.edu/lang/subpage.aspx?id=596>

UPON DECLARING, SUBMIT MAJOR/ MINOR STATEMENT to ACADEMIC ADVISOR

STUDENT NAME _____ ID _____ DATE _____
DEGREE B.A. B.A./B.F.A. DEPARTMENT: _____
EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE: _____ ADVISOR _____

REQUIRED

SEMESTER/YEAR (TO BE) COMPLETED

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY _____
MATHEMATICAL MODELS IN NATURE _____
METHODS OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY _____
(ADVISED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS)

FOUR (4) FOUNDATION COURSES

1) CHEMISTRY OF LIFE _____
2) FOUNDATIONS IN PHYSICS
OR INTRO TO EPIDEMIOLOGY _____
3) GENES, ENVIRONMENT & BEHAVIOR _____
4) _____ _____

ONE (1) ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS COURSE

_____ _____

ONE (1) LABORATORY SCIENCE COURSE

_____ _____

TWO (2) INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES (PRE-REQUISITES REQUIRED)

1) _____ _____
2) _____ _____

ONE (1) ADDITIONAL ADVANCED LEVEL COURSE (LSCI 4000, PRE-REQUISITES REQUIRED). SELECTED UNDER CONSULTATION WITH FACULTY ADVISOR

_____ _____

ONE (1) ELECTIVE COURSE: A LSCI OR LMTH COURSE THAT HAS NOT BEEN APPLIED TOWARDS SATISFYING A REQUIREMENT ABOVE. SELECTED UNDER CONSULTATION WITH FACULTY ADVISOR

_____ _____

INTERNSHIP (RECOMMENDED)

SCIENCE FELLOWS (OPTIONAL : MERIT BASED)

TOTAL LANG CREDITS _____ (88 total credits or _____ credits if transfer) TOTAL CREDITS
_____ (BA 120 total credits; BAFA 180 total credits)

Advisor's Signature

Date

****Next page: use the template to create a chart with specific courses (fall and spring columns) ****

Students majoring or minoring in IS should consider the ways in which their academic and experiential work support their post-graduate plans. Upon declaring the Major/Minor, students should review the guidelines for developing a Major/Minor statement and submit this statement outlining their goals for academic study to a member of the IS faculty. This statement will be revisited and revised each year with the academic advisor in an effort to customize an evolving course of study accompanied by appropriate internship and research experiences.

The Majors/Minor Statement Guidelines, Specific Track Requirements for the Major, and course offerings can be accessed from the Lang College Areas of Study Forms and Requirements Link <http://www.newschool.edu/lang/forms-and-requirements/>. More advising documents are available from the Biohealthsocietylang site <https://sites.google.com/site/biohealthsocietylang/> under Resources.

The template below is not written in stone, but rather, suggests a useful sequence in which to complete the requirements for this program. Students declare their major at various points, but we recommend that when you declare, you review this chart, submit a MAJORS/MINOR statement, and schedule an advising appointment with a member of the Interdisciplinary Science Program so that advising can be personalized and appropriate to your interests and post-graduate plans.

Transfer Students who enter the college at the junior or senior level can satisfy the Foundations Requirements by completing 4 courses in 2 scientific disciplines rather than 3, whereas sophomore transfers must complete 4 foundations in 3 disciplines.

For MAJORS: Generic Sample Interdisciplinary Course Menu

	FALL	SPRING
YEAR 1	IS Introductory Elective Writing 1 Course Advising Course Freshman Workshop	IS Introductory Elective Writing 2 Course
YEAR 2	IS Foundation Course Energy and Sustainability University Lecture Course	IS Foundation Course One Lab course Mathematical Models in Nature
YEAR 3	IS Foundation Course IS Foundation Course IS Internship	IS Intermediate Course Second Math Course University Lecture Course
YEAR 4	Methods of Scientific Inquiry IS Intermediate/Advanced Course	IS Advanced Elective IS Advanced Course

For MINORS: Generic Sample Interdisciplinary Course Menu

- LSCI 2700 Energy and Sustainability
- One Mathematics Course
- One Lab Course (these have prerequisites and are not offered every year)
- Two Foundations (across any two following disciplines; biology chemistry, physics, epidemiology, and math)

**** all students must receive a C or higher in all courses that meet the requirements of the major/minor