



Rhodes College

—1848—

REG

DECLARATION OF MAJOR (SELF-DESIGNED, INTERDISCIPLINARY)

Name: _____

Date: _____ Rhodes ID Number: R _____

NOTE: This form is to be used only to declare a self-designed, individualized major combining and integrating two or more departments. Interdisciplinary majors currently listed in the catalogue should be declared using the regular form. The title of the proposed interdisciplinary major must contain the names of the departments involved. **Each element of this form, including letters of endorsement from the student’s advisers and from the chairpersons of participating department, must be completed in order for the petition to be considered. Incomplete petitions will be returned to the student without review.**

Students who wish to declare a self-designed interdisciplinary major should consult the Rhodes Catalogue (<http://rhodes.edu/academics/6904.asp>) under the heading "Interdisciplinary Majors" for the proper procedure to follow. This declaration form is to be submitted to the Registrar, who will forward it to the Educational Program Committee.

The majors currently offered by the College’s academic departments and interdisciplinary programs are carefully designed and rigorously reviewed by the faculty for intellectual depth and coherence. Students proposing a self-designed course of study should expect that their proposals will be held to the same standards. The self-designed interdisciplinary major petition process will, therefore, require a significant amount of time and reflection. Students wishing to pursue this option should work closely with their advising faculty in the relevant departments while developing their proposals.

This Declaration of Interdisciplinary Major must be submitted no later than the end of the first semester of the junior year. This deadline assumes that an original declaration of major was filed during the sophomore year. This form also may be submitted in lieu of the normal Declaration of Major form during the sophomore year. Any changes in this major program must be approved by the Educational Program Committee.

All official records of a student’s progress at the college are kept by the Registrar. Each student should maintain a record of coursework as well since the ultimate responsibility for meeting degree requirements is that of the student. An appointment with the Registrar for an official evaluation of degree and major requirements may be made at any time.

Departments involved in the proposed major: _____

Circle the degree you plan to receive: BA BS (only if each department involved offers only a BS degree)

Proposed graduation date (month and year): _____

Catalog year you are following for the degree requirements: _____

Adviser #1 (adviser of record): _____

Adviser #2: _____

If changing faculty advisers, you must notify your previous adviser of this declaration of major so that appropriate records may be forwarded to your new major adviser.

Previous adviser’s signature: _____

The program of courses outlined here meets the requirements for a degree. I understand that it is my responsibility to be aware of all degree requirements and of my progress toward fulfilling them.

Student’s signature: _____

PROPOSED MAJOR COURSES

Department: _____

Course No.	Hours	Course Title	Taken	Status (Indicate year)	
				In Progress	To Be Taken
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Department: _____

Course No.	Hours	Course Title	Taken	Status (Indicate year)	
				In Progress	To Be Taken
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Other Required Courses:

Department: _____

Course No.	Hours	Course Title	Taken	Status (Indicate year)	
				In Progress	To Be Taken
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

In the spaces below for each semester, fill in the courses you have taken and those that you plan to take in the future to fulfill your degree requirements and your major department requirements. Place an asterisk (*) by those courses which fulfill major requirements and the appropriate number for those that satisfy Foundation Requirements. Consult the catalogue that you are using for the complete descriptions of the requirements for your degree. This form is not meant to describe those requirements in full, but to assist you in planning your coursework for your remaining semesters at Rhodes.

	Fall	Spring	Summer
First-Year	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	Total Credit: _____	_____	_____
Sophomore	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	Total Credit: _____	_____	_____
Junior	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	Total Credit: _____	_____	_____
Senior	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	Total Credit: _____	_____	_____

Credits Required to Graduate: 128

1. Explanation and justification of the major (Please attach to this page.)

The majors currently offered by the College's academic departments and interdisciplinary programs are carefully designed and rigorously reviewed by the faculty for intellectual depth and coherence. Students who wish to propose a self-designed course of study should expect that their proposals will be held to the same standards.

Your essay must articulate your rationale for the interdisciplinary major. Simply explaining how courses in different departments are related is not sufficient. The rationale must specifically explain why the academic goals of the self-designed major cannot be achieved through a combination of majors and minor(s). The petitioner must demonstrate that only by *integrating* work in the departments can those academic goals be realized. The importance of this essay cannot be overemphasized. It is not only a statement of the student's reasons for choosing the proposed interdisciplinary major, but also a philosophical and practical statement of (i) how the new major meets the same rigorous standards as the College's already-existing majors, (ii) how the proposed course-plan will include truly interdisciplinary study, (iii) how, if there are similar programs or majors at other comparable institutions, the proposed plan for interdisciplinary study compares to those.

2. Explanation of the senior capstone experience (Please attach to this page.)

The proposed program of study must include a complete description of how the interdisciplinary senior experience will be structured. It must be clear how the departments involved in the major will be integrated into the senior seminar, seminars, or capstone experience. Any self-designed capstone experience should be explained in detail and should be comparable in content, rigor, and methodology to the capstone experiences for existing majors.

3. Adviser assessments and endorsements (Please attach an assessment and endorsement from each adviser.)

This student's petition must be assessed and endorsed in writing by the advisers.. This endorsement must include a detailed assessment of the student's rationale and of the student's ability to undertake and complete successfully the work projected in the petition.

4. Departmental endorsements (Please attach an endorsement from each chairperson.)

Chairpersons should review the completed petition. If the student's petition includes coursework or other projects outside of the participating departments' normal course offerings, the chairpersons should note their awareness of those elements of the proposal and give assurances that those or comparable opportunities will be available for the student.

