**Colby College**

**INDEPENDENT MAJOR PROPOSAL**

Date submitted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Revision\* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_No

Name Class

E-mail

Title of Major

Primary Advisor (Name and Department) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Advisor (Name and Department) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Disciplines/Programs involved in the Independent Major**

**Guidelines for preparing your independent major proposal**

An independent major should be a coherent program of study with a specific focus, rather than simply a haphazard choice of courses. The driving principle of a major should be discussed in the written proposal. If the college offers a minor in the subject, the courses required for the minor should be taken as a starting point for a major. To ensure depth, the student is required to engage in a synthesizing research project, or Capstone, during the senior year, normally in the form of an independent study.

The Independent Major Proposal includes:

1. This completed form, whose primary content is the list of courses you have selected. The courses you select should
   1. Reflect the academic values of a liberal arts college, as opposed to a vocational course of study.
   2. Clearly prepare you for your proposed Capstone.
   3. Address the skills and knowledge required to complete your major.
2. A (3-5 page) narrative that articulates the rationale for your major. In it you should
   1. Offer a strong and coherent argument for the Independent Major. The proposal should also address why working within an established Major will not fulfill the student's academic goals.
   2. Address how this major will support your future plans and provide the background for your Capstone. (In your junior year, you will be updating this document to incorporate more details about the capstone and to reflect on how your major is progressing.)
   3. Describe how your coursework provides both breadth of disciplines and depth within one or more area.
   4. Provide your most polished writing possible. The document should be thoughtful, well written, and demonstrate in all particulars (grammar, sentence and paragraph structure, logical development) that you are qualified to undertake the rigors of independent study.

Please submit your proposal to the Independent Major Committee via email ([indmajor@colby.edu](mailto:indmajor@colby.edu)).

Please ask your advisors to submit their advisor recommendation form and letter of support directly to the Independent Major Committee via email ([indmajor@colby.edu](mailto:indmajor@colby.edu)).

Be sure to save a copy of the completed proposal, and ensure that your advisors have copies as well.

*\*If this is a revision to the proposal you submitted, please briefly address the comments made to your original proposal by the Independent Major Committee.*

1. **What all-college and distribution requirements are outstanding? When will they be completed?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Requirements** | **When will they be completed?** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

2. **Independent Major Program of Study**

In determining the courses which will comprise your major, please note the following:

* Only three and four credit courses may count toward the independent major.
* Only courses with a grade of C- or above may count toward the independent major.
* No requirements for the independent major my be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.
* Up to three non-Colby, outside courses may count toward the independent major. These courses may be taken at other colleges or universities in the United States or abroad.
* No more than two independent studies may count toward the independent major.
* Independent majors are generally no fewer than 40 credits and no more than 64 credits.

1. **Core courses** (should include no more than three-100 level courses). Please list in order from 100 to 400 level.

**Course number and title Semester Year Credits**

Total Credits – Core

1. **Electives –** mix of 200, 300 and 400 level courses (list only those additional courses which are to count towards the credits for your independent major)

**Course number and title Semester Year Credits**

Total Credits – Electives

1. **Capstone** ( should be a synthesizing research project)

Total Major Credits – (A, B & C – must equal minimum of 40 credits and no less than 10 courses) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Four-Year Independent Major Course Plan:**

List the all of the courses which comprise your independent major. **Please include the grade received for courses you have completed.** If you plan to study abroad, please indicate the semester.

**Course #/Title/ Credits**

**1st Semester** semester/year  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2nd Semester** semester/year **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Jan Plan Year \_\_\_\_\_ Course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3rd Semester** semester/year **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4th Semester** semester/year **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Jan Plan Year \_\_\_\_\_\_ Course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Course #/Title/ Credits**

**5th Semester** semester/year **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**6th Semester** semester/year **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Jan Plan Year \_\_\_\_\_\_ Course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**7th Semester** semester/year **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**8th Semester** semester/year **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Jan Plan Year \_\_\_\_\_ Course\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3.** For which of your Independent Major courses are there no readily available substitutions? (Sometimescourses are bracketed or dropped or the particular faculty member leaves Colby.)

Course # Title

4. Do you have another major/minor? Do you intend to keep or drop them if this proposal is approved?

In requesting an Independent Major, I understand that I am responsible for fulfilling my major and graduation requirements and will follow College guidelines for completing these requirements. I will keep my advisor/s informed of my progress and will seek approval from my advisor/s and the Independent Major Committee, in advance, if there are any changes or substitutions to my independent major.

By typing my name below, I indicate my agreement with this statement

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name Date