

REGULATIONS FOR INDEPENDENT MAJORS

- 1) **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** An independent major is a coherent program of study that cannot be pursued within the established majors of the college. The application begins with a statement of purpose describing the major questions and themes that unify the course work into a coherent body of study. Attach your statement to this form.
- 2) **CORE:** The work of the major is divided into (a) the courses and independent study forming the methodology and subject-matter core of the program, and (b) elective courses which supplement the basic core. The core program shall provide for a solid foundation in one or more academic disciplines by the inclusion of those courses most fundamental to the theory and methodology of those disciplines. Students are required to complete the core program as approved. The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College must approve any change. Additional work for the major is chosen from the list of approved electives.
- 3) **CREDITS:** The independent major must include a minimum of 36 credits plus the 4-credit senior thesis, taken in not less than two, nor more than four, academic departments. The program shall have at least 32 credits of course work. Not more than 4 credits of independent study (297, 299, 387, 397, 399, 499 and internship) above and beyond THS-499 is allowed. At least 8 credits of course work shall be at the 300 level or above; not more than 4 credits of work shall be at the 100 level.
- 4) **ADVISERS:** Two faculty advisers are required for all independent majors to assist in planning the major and to supervise the thesis. *The advisers must be from two different departments with courses included in the major.* One adviser must be a full-time faculty member. The other may be part-time. Advisers should be persons who expect to be at Grinnell in the student's senior year to supervise the thesis planning, research, and writing. If one of the advisers leaves the college, on leave or permanently, the student is responsible for finding another faculty adviser and having the change approved by the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College.
- 5) **THESIS:** The thesis of an independent major (THS-499) should utilize the ideas that unify the major into a coherent whole. Both in conception and in execution, the thesis must have the approval of both faculty advisers. Acceptance of a copy of the finished thesis by the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, signed by both advisers, completes this requirement of the major. The finished thesis copy should be turned into the Registrar's Office.
- 6) **GPA:** A minimum grade point average of 3.00 is required.
- 7) **TITLE OF MAJOR:** Titles for majors should be short (two or three words) and descriptive of the course work as a whole. The courses that constitute the major are not specified on the transcript.

INDEPENDENT MAJOR APPLICATION FORM

(Instructions on reverse – Please type or print)

Name _____ Box _____

Student ID _____ Anticipated Graduation Date ____/____/____
MM / YY (e.g. 5/2002)

Departments (Maximum – 4) _____

Title of Major (2-3 words) _____

Advisers _____

Program Outline

A. CORE-courses:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Course Number & Title</u>	<u>Semester & Year Planned</u>	<u>Credits</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Total credits - CORE _____

B. Electives: (list only those additional courses which are to count towards the 40 credits for your major)

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Total credits – Electives _____

C. THS-499 Independent Major Thesis:

Thesis credits ___4

TOTAL MAJOR CREDITS (add A,B, & C - must = minimum of 40 credits) _____

D. Program Plan: Attach a complete 4 yr. program plan, by semester, of all courses you have completed, are enrolled in, and plan on completing. This plan should include courses from each of the three academic divisions to provide a broad liberal arts education. To receive an electronic copy of a 4-yr. plan form, e-mail the registrar's office at registrar@grinnell.edu.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS:

Adviser 1) _____ Adviser 2) _____

Dean of the College _____ Date _____

Name _____

Four-Year Course Plan: List the courses you have completed (include the grade received) and the courses you intend to take. To receive an electronic copy of this form, e-mail Registrar at registrar@grinnell.edu

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER		
Depart/Course #	Title	Crs	Depart/Course #	Title	Crs
1st Semester			2nd Semester		
1	_____		1	_____	
2	_____		2	_____	
3	_____		3	_____	
4	_____		4	_____	
5	_____		5	_____	
6	_____		6	_____	
3rd Semester			4th Semester		
1	_____		1	_____	
2	_____		2	_____	
3	_____		3	_____	
4	_____		4	_____	
5	_____		5	_____	
6	_____		6	_____	
5th Semester			6th Semester		
1	_____		1	_____	
2	_____		2	_____	
3	_____		3	_____	
4	_____		4	_____	
5	_____		5	_____	
6	_____		6	_____	
7th Semester			8th Semester		
1	_____		1	_____	
2	_____		2	_____	
3	_____		3	_____	
4	_____		4	_____	
5	_____		5	_____	
6	_____		6	_____	

List additional academic work that will count toward your undergraduate degree (such as summer research, transfer credits, and AP/IB credits) below: _____

