

St. Lawrence University

Multifield Major Program
Declaration of Intent

The purpose of this form is to declare an intention to prepare a multifield major proposal.

Name: _____

Year of Graduation: _____

Campus Box #: _____

Campus Phone #: _____

Contributing Fields of Study

Faculty Sponsor (suggestions)

Overall Faculty Advisor: _____
(Person who will become your major advisor)

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return form to: Academic Advising Programs, Madill Hall 101

Guidelines for Writing a Multifield Major

1. You may submit a proposal to become a Multifield Major during your sophomore year and up until the midterm of the second semester/junior year.
2. Academic requirements include:
 - a. a 2.0 overall GPA;
 - b. maintaining a 2.0 average overall in the multifield major;
 - c. meeting all the requirements in each field as designated on your Form A.
3. The narrative section of the proposal should describe the academic purposes of the program. The description should give a specific and detailed explanation of the question or the area of interest which is the focus of the proposal. Further, it should make clear how the courses included in the proposal constitute an integrated, in-depth study of this question or interest. Proposals that appear to be an accidental conjunction of courses will not be approved.
4. You will have a sponsor in each field. One of those sponsors will act as an overall advisor (major advisor) for the program. Each student should decide on the courses to be taken with the aid and approval of the sponsors from the respective fields. The overall advisor should approve the narrative section before it is submitted to the committee.
5. An interdisciplinary, independent project (Multifield 489 and/or 490) is recommended but not required. This project should combine the fields that are proposed in the Multifield Major and should be conceived as a synthesis of the work done. It should be listed under the relevant field and should be evaluated by that field's sponsor or the overall advisor. Such a project may be counted as one of the six required upper-division courses.
6. If courses from an abroad program are to be a part of the program, you should obtain a note from the chair of the appropriate department stating that the course is acceptable for major credit.
7. Complete Form A as described in the directions.
8. Submit a current transcript as part of the proposal.
9. Honors for the Multifield Major requires a 3.5 average in courses of the Multifield, the completion of an interdepartmental project, Multifield 490, and the presentation of its results in some academic forum. Interested students should ask for a copy of the Honors Policy.
10. Attach a Major Declaration card to your proposal. It is available in the Academic Advising lobby in Madill Hall.

11. Plan on showing drafts of the narrative to the faculty member who agrees to act as your overall (major) advisor. Form B must be signed by the overall advisor and is considered a part of the application.
12. An electronic version of the completed application must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Academic Advising Programs before it can be considered.
13. The complete application includes:
 - a. The narrative;
 - b. The completed, signed Form A, with clear indications of who will be the overall, major advisor;
 - c. an unofficial St. Lawrence University transcript;
 - d. notes from appropriate department chairs stating that courses from abroad programs listed on Form A are acceptable for major credit;
 - e. a declaration of major card and, if applicable, a change of major card;
 - f. a signed Form B.

Guidelines for Writing the Narrative

The narrative section of the proposal should explain the body of knowledge or the academic question or theme you wish to study. The body of knowledge or question or theme must have academic integrity. You should explain the narrative how the two or three academic fields you are proposing as your major plan relate to that body of knowledge or question or theme. For example, if you are interested in the overall idea of communication in the print media and your are proposing a major incorporating English Writing and Fine Arts, explain in general how writing course relate to the theme of communicating through print and how fine arts courses relate to the same idea. You might want to cite books or articles which brought you to the conclusion that writing and the visual arts are related and/or discuss events in your own experience which brought you to this same conclusion. A brief consideration of what you plan to do with this major after graduation might be relevant. Be aware, however, that your post-graduation plans will not be accepted as the main reason for pursuing a particular plan of study

Next, you should offer a detailed discussion of your academic plans for the remainder of the time you are at St. Lawrence. You should also discuss any courses or academic experiences you may have already had which fit in with the course of study you are proposing. While you do not have to discuss every course you list on Form A, you should discuss those that you consider particularly important to your study. If an off-campus study program is relevant and important, mention it, and explain briefly how it will relate to your plan. Explain any independent projects you plan that are relevant. If any past or future jobs or internships or extracurricular activities are relevant, discuss them briefly, too. The point is to offer details that have helped or will help you to achieve a good investigation of the body of knowledge or question or theme you have outlined as your particular academic interest.

The committee views the notion of academic integrity as most important. It will not pass proposals which suggest that the writer simply likes two or three fields and wishes to take some courses in each or that he or she would like to combine two or three fields for future job security. The narrative is your chance to convince the Committee that your plan of study is academically sound. Organize, and argue your case well.

The Committee also feels that the ability to articulate the overall scope of the proposal clearly and defend its academic integrity soundly is essential. Writing must be clear and grammar, spelling, punctuation, and other technical matters must be absolutely perfect. If there are problems in any of these areas, the Committee will turn back the proposal.

Acceptable narratives are usually between three and five pages, typed, single-spaced.

Please feel free to contact the Associate Dean for Advising if you have any further questions.

Honors Program for Multifield Majors

Policy

It is customary in most departments of the university that offer major programs to recognize a student's excellence in the major by means of a graduation certificate endorsed with departmental honors. The means by which a student may achieve departmental honors differ from department to department; nevertheless, the opportunity for such distinction is generally available. The Multifield Committee believes that distinction by way of departmental honors ought to be available to students whose majors consist of a Multifield Program.

The following are the requirements for departmental honors in a Multifield Program:

1. an average grade in the Multifield Program of 3.5;
2. the submission of a satisfactory honors thesis or project;
3. recommendation of sponsors and advisor.

The committee views the thesis or project as a significant opportunity for the student to demonstrate the interrelationships among the various disciplines in his major. The value of the thesis or project rests in the opportunity it affords the student to synthesize the results of his program of studies into a coherent whole. The thesis or project is, in effect, a realization of the goal a student sets for himself in taking on a Multifield Major. The thesis or project should represent a sustained academic effort.

Implementation

1. Multifield students should apply to be candidates for honors by submitting a project proposal to the Academic Advising Committee before the end of the add/drop period of the first semester of their senior year.
2. The project proposal should have prior approval from an Honors committee consisting of the sponsors and the overall advisor of each student's multifield major.
3. The Multifield Committee will accept candidates for honors based on approval of the project proposal.
4. Candidates for honors should enroll in nondepartmental 490 during the first semester of their senior year, with the possibility that an X-grade be assigned for projects that will not be finished until the second semester.
5. The student is responsible for consulting jointly with all the members of the Honors Committee to assure that all members are aware of the content and progress of the honors thesis during each stage of its preparation.

6. A first draft of the honors thesis must be submitted to each member of the Honors Committee for their review on or before the first Friday after the midterm recess of the Spring semester.
7. A final draft of the honors thesis must be submitted to each member of the Honors Committee, not later than three full weeks before the last day of classes.
8. The grade awarded for nondepartmental 490 will not determine whether honors are awarded or not. This will be an independent decision made by the Honors Committee consisting of the student's sponsors and overall advisor. It is expected, however, that most projects deserving of honors will be graded as either 3.5 or 4.0 in nondepartmental 490. Credit for nondepartmental 490 is contingent on a passing grade and not on a decision to award honors.
9. The Honors Committee will advise the Academic Advising Committee whether it judges the honors candidate to have completed a project deserving of honors. The supervisor of the honors project should transmit the committee's decision, in writing, to the chairman of the Multifield Committee at least five days before the last day of classes of the semester in which the candidate will graduate.
10. Candidates recommended for honors by their committee will make an oral presentation of their projects to the Academic Advising Committee and other interested members of the university community prior to graduation.

Directions for Completing Form A

1. Fill in the requested information: name, anticipated year of graduation, degree sought, and the title of the multifield major.
2. Make sure the courses required include at least four electives from each field. One course in each department must be an upper-level course (300-400 level). The total number of upper-level courses in all departments combined must equal at least six. Mark a "U" for 300-400 level courses and an "L" for 100-200 level courses.
3. Indicate anticipated semester and year each course will be taken (e.g. Spring, 1970).
4. List other courses in related fields in the space at the bottom of the form. These are courses which are in fields other than those included in your proposal but relate to your multifield focus. Relevant courses taken abroad may also be included in this section. It is not necessary to include other courses; however, if they are listed on Form A they must be completed.
5. Decide which courses to list in conference with sponsors in each of the respective fields.
6. Choose courses after consulting a current catalog and checking with the chairpersons of relevant departments or programs to be sure the courses you need to take will be offered when you wish to take them.
7. Do not list alternatives or unspecified courses (e.g. "three other courses in English") on Form A.
8. Indicate the content of independent projects (e.g. "Independent project in the Application of Computers to Business").
9. Have Form A signed by sponsors and indicate an overall advisor before you give the proposal to the Academic Advising Committee.
10. Once the proposal is approved, realize that the courses listed on Form A constitute your major. You will be held accountable for the completion of each of them before graduation. If changes are necessary, you must petition to revise Form A, have the petition signed by the appropriate sponsor(s) and the overall advisor, and submit it to the multifield Committee for approval before you take the substitute course or courses.
11. Submit one hard copy of the proposal along with an electronic copy in WORD format, to the Associate Dean for Academic Advising Programs.

FORM A

NAME: _____ **Class of** _____ **Degree sought: B.A. or B.S. (circle one)**

MULTIFIELD TITLE: _____

FIELD: _____ **Courses Required:**

I agree to act as sponsor for this field:

Signed: _____ Dept: _____ Date: _____

FIELD: _____

Courses Required:

I agree to act as sponsor for this field:

Signed: _____ Dept: _____ Date: _____

FIELD: _____

Courses Required:

I agree to act as sponsor for this field:

Signed: _____ Dept: _____ Date: _____

FIELD: _____

Courses Required:

I agree to act as sponsor for this field:

Signed: _____ Dept: _____ Date: _____

I agree to act as overall advisor for this project and as major advisor for the student:

Signed: _____ Dept: _____ Date: _____

COMMITTEE ACTION _____

MULTIFIELD CHAIRPERSON _____ DATE: _____

Form B

Your signature signifies that you have gone over the narrative with the student, that you think it represents his or her academic rationale for the major and academic plan well, and that you think it is an intellectually coherent and academically sound piece of writing.

(sponsor)

(date)

(sponsor)

(date)

(overall advisor)

(date)