Application for Independent Pattern of Study

Office of the Registrar

_____

Last Name First Name ID Number Email

Title of Independent Pattern of Study:_____

For listing on official transcript (maximum of 30 characters)

Please select your class standing: ◯ Frosh ◯ Sophomore ◯ Junior ◯ Senior

Select one: ◯ Preliminary proposal ◯ Final proposal

TERMS OF THE CONTRACT

These terms are to be agreed upon by the student and the IPS faculty committee members. Items 1-5 must be attached to this form.

1. Statement of academic purpose
2. Courses to fulfill the IPS at least 48 units of course work required, including 32 units in courses numbered 300 or above).
3. Proposal for Comprehensive Project
4. Plans for faculty involvement.
5. Faculty comments final proposal only)
6. Completion of Comprehensive Project: _____
7. Completion of degree requirements: _____

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

Signatures of those who reviewed and approved the terms of this contact not more than two committee members may be from the same department):

Student _____ Date _____

Primary Committee Member _____ Date _____

Secondary Committee Member _____ Date _____

Secondary Committee Member _____ Date _____

Additional comments or recommendations to Student Progress Committee (SPC):

ACTION BY STUDENT PROGRESS COMMITTEE:

◯ Approved Date: _____ Comments: _____

◯ Not Approved Date: _____ _____

◯ No Action Date: _____ _____

Occidental offers students, with the consultation of faculty members, the opportunity to design an Independent Pattern of Study IPS in lieu of a major program. An Independent Pattern of Study is appropriate when a student has a strong and well-developed motivation to pursue interdisciplinary study in areas where the College does not have a defined program. Such a program is particularly appropriate in newly emerging areas of study. It must, however, be one which is feasible for both the College and the student. The student must demonstrate to the faculty involved a record of success in completing previous work in courses, independent study and other programs.

Each proposal for IPS should include the following components:

1. A statement of academic purpose. Make clear to a non-expert the nature of the proposed study, its relationship to existing areas of study, and the reasons for the student's interest, which may be intellectual or vocational. Compare with other undergraduate programs in the proposed area, if possible. Show the need for an IPS, a need which cannot be met in an existing major program.

2. A program of at least 48 units, including 32 numbered 300 or greater. Include relevant courses already taken and a schedule of future courses; include independent study projects. Give a rationale for the inclusion of each course and show the depth of study and the breadth of the program. Include at least 48 units of credit with 32 or more in advanced courses including independent study) numbered 300 or greater. The advanced course work must be from more than one department.

3. A proposal for the Comprehensive Project. To the extent possible, an early proposal for a Comprehensive Project should be submitted with the IPS proposal, including a timetable for completion. At least describe the form of the Comprehensive Project. Give a plan and timetable for final approval for the Comprehensive Project; normally no later than two semesters before the proposed completion of the program.

4. Plans for faculty involvement, including regular meetings with the entire committee. The IPS Committee is composed of three members of the faculty, with one identified as the Chair; no more than two of the faculty members can be from the same department. Describe briefly the expertise and interest of the members of the IPS Committee. Propose a schedule of meetings of the full IPS Committee with the student, at least one per semester.

5. An overall GPA of 3.25 or better at the time the IPS proposal is submitted for approval. The program of study must be endorsed by an IPS committee, composed of three members of the faculty, with no more than two faculty from the same department.

The procedure for proposing an IPS begins with the submission of a proposal to the Office of the Registrar no later than six weeks before the end of the sophomore year. The student should consult with the members of the SPC in preparing the preliminary proposal. The proposal, after any necessary revisions, will be presented by the student to the assembled IPS committee in preparation for final submission. The SPC, or a designated subcommittee, will provide written comments on the preliminary proposal, and make suggestions for its completion. Final proposals for an IPS must be approved no later than the end of the sophomore year.

The student's transcript will have "Independent Pattern of Study" listed under the heading of "Major." The title chosen for the IPS will be identified on the transcript as an emphasis in the major.