Petition for a Special Major

Students who feel that their best interests cannot be served by the majors listed in the catalog may petition for a special major (B.A. or B.G.S.). Interested students should consult College Student Academic Services, preferably before the end of the sophomore year.

The following guidelines apply to special majors:

1. Special majors must not overlap significantly with existing KU major programs and should not have the same titles as existing majors.
2. A major must include at least 24 credit hours. Note that most CLAS majors require about 30 hours.
3. At least 2/3 of the credit hours to be counted toward the special major must be CLAS courses.
4. The major must be supervised by a special committee of three faculty members, at least two of whom are faculty members in CLAS.
5. The proposal for the special major must receive the official endorsement of one or more CLAS departments or degree programs.
6. Every student must declare a major no later than the semester after completion of 60 credit hours. A student seeking a special major should submit the petition at least one semester before that to ensure that he/she can satisfy this requirement whether or not the special major is approved.
7. At least 12 credit hours numbered 300 or above counted toward the special major must be taken after approval of the special major.
8. A student seeking a special major must fulfill the general education degree requirements necessary for the B.A. or B.G.S degree as well as the university Core requirements.
9. A student seeking a special major must be in good standing in CLAS, and must have at least a 2.0 average in any courses already taken that will count towards the major.

The petition for a special major will include the following.

1. Statement of purpose: What is the academic theme, what ties the courses together, and how will the courses contribute to the goal?
2. Explanation of why the goals of this special major cannot be achieved within an existing major.
3. List of courses to count towards the major.
4. List of committee members.
5. Letter of support from the committee chair, indicating why the special major is important to the student’s academic development and providing evidence that the student will be successful in the major. Letters from other committee members are welcomed, but are not required.
6. Letter of endorsement from all departments offering the courses that will be used for the major. The letters should give assurance that the courses will be offered in the time frame needed for the student to complete the major.