

**EARLHAM COLLEGE**  
**Petition to Propose an Independent Major**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID \_\_\_\_\_ Drawer \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Title of Proposed Major \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ (Registrar's Office only)

Proposed Date of Graduation - \_\_\_\_\_

*Petitions should be submitted for committee consideration in accordance with the expected time for declaring a major at the College. The earlier a proposal is submitted, the greater the likelihood of scheduling the proposed course of study. Petitions will not be accepted beyond 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of second year.*

**Preamble:** Earlham offers majors in disciplinary and interdisciplinary subjects, as well as offering a rich array of minor fields. The College also offers the opportunity for double majors and interdepartmental majors. Much thought and time have gone into developing and staffing this curriculum, so that almost all students will find an appropriate combination of major and minor fields to suit their interests. However, it is possible for a student to propose an independent major in a course of study that is not available within the existing major/minor offerings. In such a case it is the responsibility of the student to prepare an independent major proposal in consultation with at least two academic advisers. Such a major may well prove more demanding to complete than a standard major, as it will involve a pattern of courses drawn from a variety of departments that addresses the topic of the independent major in a comprehensive and integrated fashion. *Decisions are based on the coherence and feasibility of the proposed major.*

Please address the following questions in your attached petition:

1. What is the rationale for the proposed major?
2. What educational goals are you addressing with the design of this major?
3. What are the planned courses for this major? You will need 10 courses to form a concentration including a minimum of 6 courses above 300. Up to two Independent Studies may be included in the concentration.
4. How do these courses form a coherent concentration for your proposed major?
5. Who are the advisers for this major? List the principal adviser \_\_\_\_\_ who will supervise your capstone experience.
6. Indicate the nature and content of your capstone experience.
7. How does the proposed title for your major inform a graduate school or a future employer about the content of your program?

Other requirements for the petition include:

1. Letters of support from at least two (2) academic advisers who can speak to the *feasibility* and comprehensiveness of your proposed major and the capstone experience.
2. A completed four-year academic plan form with plans for off-campus study, internship, etc. as appropriate. (Forms are available in the Registrar's Office)

Signature of the student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the adviser \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the adviser \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For office use only: Committee action \_\_\_\_\_

Response to student and adviser \_\_\_\_\_