

CREATE YOUR OWN MAJOR INSTRUCTIONS

The option to create your own major is a unique opportunity for students who have a very narrow academic plan that cannot be met with existing college majors. Students who seek to pursue a uniquely designed major must meet all university required academic policies as defined in the university catalog. This catalog year is typically reflective of the catalog that was in effect when the student first matriculated (unless the student proactively changes the catalog of record). For example, if a student first matriculated in fall 2020 or spring 2021, then the catalog of record would be the “2020-2021 catalog.”

All unique majors that are faculty-approved must meet all university academic policies for a major. As an example, the following reflect the 2020-2021 catalog:

- A minimum of 128 semester hours, including all general education requirements.
- A minimum of 44 semester hours must be completed at the University of La Verne in residence.
- At least 16 semester hours of the residency hours must be at the upper division in the major.
- All traditional age undergraduate student on the main campus who have reached senior standing may transfer no more than 16 of the last 32 units; remaining units must be earned in residence.
- A minimum of 44 semester hours at the upper division level (300-400 level) courses must be successfully completed.
- This includes a minimum of 24 semester hours of upper division coursework in the student’s major.
- To qualify for graduation, the student must have a minimum La Verne GPA and a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better, in the major, minor (if declared), and overall.

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GENEAL GUIDELINES

1. Here are a few things to consider with a Create-Your-Own-Major. The first is what do you want to accomplish with this new major? If it is something that can be achieved with a major and minor in two different disciplines already offered on campus, then that would be the way to go--stick to the existing campus offerings.

2. If, however, you have another idea in mind, then we would suggest you think long and hard about what that end-goal looks like. Write it down in one sentence! Sort of like a mission statement.

3. A created major should not have a title that is like any of the current majors on the books, nor should it have a curriculum content that is drawn from a single department.

As an example (and this is just an example!), a created major may be something like **Geomythology of Indigenous Peoples** with the goal/mission of " . . . *understanding the stories and myths tied to landscape features as expressed visually and orally by indigenous peoples.*" This kind of major does not exist on our campus (or anywhere else), and would entail a number of classes drawn from anthropology, art, literature, geology, religion, botany, music, and maybe even physics.

4. The final class in the major (everyone has to have this) is the senior culminating project--this is where you tie all your coursework together in a single project (designed by you with the guidance of your advisor/mentor).

5. As a reminder, you would actually need an advisor/mentor who would be willing to shepherd you through this created major. Your currently assigned advisor may not want to do that, or may want to!

So, to get started, think through what you want to really do with a created major, what you want to accomplish, and even though you may not have an idea about the kinds of classes it may entail (that is what advisors are for!) how you want to express the final outcome.

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Are you still interested? Email your desire to create a major with all the items (1-5) to advising@laverne.edu. We will communicate your desired goal to design your own major to the designated faculty advisor for review and approval. Please wait about 10 business days to hear from us.