**Section 1 - ISM Purposel**

We [commit](https://www.geneseo.edu/provost/globe-geneseo-learning-outcomes-baccalaureate-education) at Geneseo to helping you leave able to demonstrate **integrative inquiry** - that is, “to ask meaningful questions connecting personal experiences to academic study and co-curricular life; to synthesize multiple bodies of knowledge to address real-world problems and issues.” The Individualized Studies Major (ISM) puts that front and center. Use the space below to record your initial ideas for your ISM.

1. **Interdisciplinarity / Synthesis**

An Individualized Studies Major (ISM) asks you to draw on two or more academic areas (e.g. English and Business), mixing/combining the skills or knowledge from each of them to create something new. It’s different from studying two majors or a major or a minor because of that combining/synthesis. **In 100-200 words, explain what subject areas you want to mix together and why.** Identify, if you can, how this will produce something new. For inspiration, we recommend this [Ted Talk](https://youtu.be/4cXRrNXK4zE) by Andrew Nelson from University of Oregon.

1. **1-3 Integrative Inquiry Questions:**

What are you hoping to work out or come to understand through your ISM? Write three questions that are as precise as possible but written for a general audience rather than a specific disciplinary context. Think of these as “motivating” questions: questions that you are passionate about and that might matter to other people. Your questions should be exploratory, not yes/no e.g. “How can we use the techniques of taekwondo in order to help elementary school children understand each others’ divergent sensory needs?”

1. **Potential Titles for Your Individualized Studies Major**

Come up with 3 titles for your ISM: each should efficiently (in 5-10 words) give someone a clear indication of your focus and major areas of study. For inspiration, we recommend [these examples](https://wp.stolaf.edu/cis/web-portfolios-archive/) from St. Olaf’s College and [these](https://colab.plymouthcreate.net/ids/archived-ids-projects/) from Plymouth State University. Please remember that your ISM cannot in title or design replicate an existing, or part of an existing, major at SUNY Geneseo.

1. **3-5 Intended Learning Outcomes**

All majors at SUNY Geneseo have “Program Learning Outcomes” that articulate what a student should be able to do through pursuing that specific major. What will you be able to do after this ISM? Make sure you have 1+ outcome from each of the six areas of [Bloom’s Revised Taxonomy](https://www.cnm.edu/depts/academic-affairs/key-processes/blooms-taxonomy-rev-2). Each learning outcome should utilize an active verb - the boxes on the right of the pyramid contain examples, but you can use other verbs, too. It will help you to look at the Program Learning Outcomes from 2-3 Geneseo majors aligned with your ISM; you can find them at [bulletin.geneseo.edu](https://bulletin.geneseo.edu/) under [Academic Programs](https://bulletin.geneseo.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=494).

**Section 2: ISM Structurel**

In this section of your proposal, you’ll think about the potential elements of your ISM and your support network on and off campus.

1. **Annotated Course List**

You need 36 credits for an ISM, 4 of which are taken up by a capstone ( IARL 460 - Individualized Studies Capstone), which is usually taken in the final semester of an ISM). What are the remaining 32 credits you want to take? To answer this question, complete the ISM Course Plan Form. Make sure to include information in each column and use the course number to hyperlink to the course description in the [Course Bulletin](https://bulletin.geneseo.edu/content.php?catoid=16&navoid=652). For any courses that don’t list when they are offered, identify a backup to take if the original course is not available.

1. **Support Network**

Which faculty and staff have you studied/worked with who can help you achieve your ISM’s goals? What other on- or off-campus connections do you have that can help you? Use this space to think broadly about anyone or any organization/office who can help you inquiry and apply knowledge.

1. **Experience:**

Identify any experiences you’ve had (or could have) that help with the ISM. Think about student organizations, past jobs, volunteering, etc. - anything that relates to your ISM’s focus.

**Section 3: Reflection and Motivationl**

[GLOBE](https://www.geneseo.edu/provost/globe-geneseo-learning-outcomes-baccalaureate-education) Integrative and Applied Learning Outcome 3, **Reflection**, “to reflect upon changes in learning and outlook over time; to make personal, professional, and civic plans based on that self-reflection.” This section gives you a chance to think not just about what you’re doing, but why - and where it might take you.

1. **Personal Statement (~250 words):**

Why is this ISM the right match for you? What experiences and/or passions do you bring to it?

1. **Public good plans (~250 words):**

What communities are you hoping to reach by studying this major? What tangible outcomes will this ISM offer for others? When you think about the culmination of the major, including your Capstone, what do you imagine you might be able to point to / showcase / present?

1. **Initial Ideas for your Senior Capstone (~250 words):**

In your last year of study, you will be expected to complete IARL 460 - Individualized Studies Capstone. You will design and propose a capstone experience and identify a faculty member to be the instructor/supervisor for your capstone. In this ISM proposal, we just ask that you start thinking about what that capstone may be and describe some ideas below.