

HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES
INDIVIDUAL MINORS
(February 2025)

Individual Minors

The Individual Minors program provides students with the opportunity to design an individually tailored minor when the focus of study lies outside an established department or program-based minor, and/or combines multiple disciplines. To submit an Individual Minor proposal, the student works closely with a faculty advisor and designs a specific curriculum of study, articulating the focus and goals of the minor. The student's proposal with the advisor's recommendation is submitted to the Individual Majors Committee, which reviews the proposal and may suggest or require revisions for final approval. Once an Individual Minor is approved, any subsequent changes to the student's minor must be approved by the Individual Majors Committee and the student's advisor through a formal course change request.

Guidelines: To propose an individual minor, students must submit an Individual Minor proposal form to the Individual Majors Committee. An Individual Minor requires at least five full-credit courses, of which at least three courses must be unique to the minor, organized around a self-defined theme. The theme must be substantially distinct from any minor currently offered at the Colleges. Typically, no more than two courses taken at the 100-level can be counted towards the minor and at least one course must be taken at the 300-level or higher. An Individual Minor may include courses from study abroad, Honors, and/or an independent study but normally does not contain more than one course from amongst 450, 495/496, or 499 (independent study, Honors, or internship). All coursework for the minor must be passed with a grade of C- or better. Courses taken credit/no-credit require special approval by the Individual Majors Committee. Normally the Committee will not approve more than two courses taken from another institution (with an exception for transfer students), or more than two courses from any program or department offering its own minor towards the Individual Minor.

Individual Minor Declaration

Return this form to the Registrar's Office, Lower Level, Demarest Hall
(or send as a PDF to registrar@hws.edu)

Committee Action

- Approved
- Not Approved
- Revise & Resubmit

Name _____ ID # _____ Date _____

Anticipated Graduation Date _____

Major _____ Major Adviser _____

Title of Minor _____

Minor Adviser _____

Please check one: _____ Disciplinary minor
_____ Interdisciplinary minor

Please check one: _____ First Minor
_____ Change of Minor (from _____)
_____ Second Minor (first minor is _____)

Do you intend to earn credit in your Individual Minor by taking courses through another university or college? Pre-approval of transfer courses is required from the deans and the Individual Majors Committee.

Yes _____ No _____

Do you intend to earn credit in your Individual Minor by completing a course equivalent?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you intend to earn credit for courses in your Individual Minor by completing an independent study or Honors?

Yes _____ No _____

If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, please list and describe the courses in Part III of the Individual Minor Record (see p. 5).

Individual Minor Record

Student's Name: _____ Title of Minor: _____
Anticipated Graduation Date: _____ ID# _____

Please list the courses you wish to include in your Individual Minor. The minor may have either 5 or 6 courses. No more than two courses at 100-level may be included, with at least one course at 300-level or higher. At least 3 courses must be unique to this minor.

Be sure to list the department, course number, and title of the course.

Department, Course # and Title	Semester and Year of the course
1. _____	
2. _____	
3. _____	
4. _____	
5. _____	
6. _____	

Some courses (particularly those restricted by class year or by major/minor status) may require approval from the instructor to enroll during your registration time.

Adviser's Signature / Date

Please type a description of your Individual Minor. Include the central theme of the minor, and why this minor will address your academic needs better than a department or program minor.

