

Special Major Guidelines

The Special Major is an individually designed course of study leading to a BA or BS degree when an existing university-level SJSU undergraduate degree major does not adequately accommodate academic professional aims. The purpose of the Special Major is to give a student with a definite educational objective the opportunity to accomplish that goal. The Special Major is not to be used to bypass either normal graduation requirements or projected programs of the University, or to complete an existing degree major in which a student might enroll. Students who complete a Special Major shall be able to demonstrate the characteristics of "intentional learners" who can adapt to new environments, integrate knowledge from different sources, and continue learning throughout their life.

General Requirements

1. Students must formally request admission to a Special Major program Through the Office of Undergraduate Studies.
2. The student must cite academic and professional objective and describe the nature of the proposed major. The student must have more than one full year of academic work still to be completed to meet the minimum degree requirements.
3. Courses used to meet general education (GE) requirements may not be applied to the major, not may any courses in the major field be used for GE.
4. Students must self-identify any disabilities for which reasonable accommodations are necessary to complete the proposed degree program
5. The student must have both cumulative and an SJSU GPA of at least 2.75.

Specific Procedures

Before, during and after the initial consultation with the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, student must complete the following:

1. A written reflective statement that includes:
 - a. description of the proposed major
 - b. discussion of why existing major are not suitable
 - c. a reflection on what it means to the student to be an "educated person" and how this special major will help the student to become one
 - d. description of any disabilities that may require accommodations (if applicable)
 - e. academic, professional, and personal objectives
 - f. How does your Special Major helped you to meet your academic, professional, and personal objectives?

2. A preliminary major Course of Study that includes:
 - a. 40-45 total units in the major
 - b. 24 units in residence at SJSU
 - c. 30-40 units in upper division
3. Student must meet department advisor(s) and have a suggested major advisor (UGS does not assign advisors, students pick major advisor).
 - a. Completion of the three components in consultation with the suggested major advisor and other departments involved in the program.
 - b. Preparation of the Special Major worksheet and evaluation of General Education and graduation requirements in consultation with the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Approval of Special Major Worksheet.
 - c. Approval of modifications in Course of Study by Associate Dean.
4. If Special Major is approved, students must complete the following:
 - a. A change of Major Form
 - b. Major Form (will be completed between the student, department advisor(s), and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies).
 - c. Graduation Application
 - d. Forms must be completed and submitted at least 1 year prior to graduation.
5. Diploma and transcript will contain the title (Special Major) followed by the exact title of the major listed in the Major Form.
6. UGS Contact Information:

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