SPECIAL MAJOR

Overview and Contact Information

Students whose interests cross department lines in an area for which no interdisciplinary major exists may plan a special major incorporating work in two or more departments. Students must work closely with faculty advisors to create a plan that is academically and educationally rigorous, which then must also be approved by the Academic Dean for the Senior Class.

Each year, ten to 20 students graduate with a special major. Recent examples include biomathematics, musical theater, neurochemistry, psycholinguistics, urban studies, and wildlife biology.

Contact Information

Kathryn McMenimen, Academic Dean for the Senior Class
Briana Chace, Office Manager and Assistant to the Vice President for Student Success

300 Mary Lyon Hall
413-538-2855
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/directory/departments-offices-centers/office-academic-deans

Requirements for a Special Major

A minimum of 40 credits:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>20 credits of coursework in the approved program 1</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 credits of coursework at the 300 level in the approved program, divided between two or more departments 1</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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1 Per the student’s written plan endorsed by faculty and the Academic Dean for the Senior Class.

Other Requirements

- Declaration of special major form (https://my.mtholyoke.edu/ossa/academic_deans/Documents/Declaration%20of%20Special%20Major.pdf) (student or faculty login required)
- A written plan must be submitted to and endorsed by two members of the faculty and approved by the Academic Dean for the Senior Class. The plan must be submitted no later than the end of the eighth week of classes of the second semester of the student’s junior year.

Additional Specifications

- A special major in statistics and economics is automatically approved upon application if it includes:
  - ECON-211, ECON-212, ECON-320, and at least one other 300-level Economics course.
  - MATH-203, MATH-211, and at least two of the following courses: STAT-340, MATH-342, STAT-343, STAT-344.
- Any special major with a music component requires approval of the music department chair, and one of the advisors of the special major must be a music department faculty member. These special majors must include:
  - MUSIC-231 and at least two of the following courses: MUSIC-281, MUSIC-282, MUSIC-283.
  - One music elective at any level and an additional two music electives at the 300 level.
- A special major in mathematics and economics is automatically approved upon application if it includes:
  - ECON-211, ECON-212, and at least two 300-level Economics courses (including ECON-307 and/or ECON-320), and
  - MATH-203, MATH-211, MATH-251, and at least two of the following courses: MATH-333, MATH-339, MATH-342.