INDIVIDUAL PLANS OF STUDY
(IPS)

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2002 Lincoln Hall, 702 S. Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801
http://www.las.illinois.edu/students/programs/majors/ips/

For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in
Liberal Arts and Sciences, or Bachelor of
Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences
Major in Individual Plans of Study
E-mail: las-ips@illinois.edu

Minimum required major and supporting course work normally equates to
51-70 hours.

General education: Students must complete the Campus General
Education (https://courses.illinois.edu) requirements including the
campus general education language requirement.

Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on
this campus.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the
LAS Student Academic Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester
(60-75 hours). Please see your adviser.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours

Departmental distinction: To graduate with distinction, a student must
1. have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 and
2. successfully complete a project that has been approved by the IPS
   advisory committee.

Further information on requirements for graduation with distinction may
be obtained from the secretary of the IPS advisory committee.

Students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences may choose any
of the undergraduate degree programs offered within the college.
These majors and specialized curricula, each with its own pattern of
requirements and electives, are continuously reviewed by the sponsoring
departments and the college and revised as needed. At the same time,
it is not possible to anticipate or specify all possible undergraduate
fields of study. So, in order to encourage the growth of new academic
disciplines, the college sponsors the experimental major—the Individual
Plans of Study program. IPS allows the student to create an original
major more appropriate for the individual’s educational needs and
characterized by a unique pattern of upper-level courses with a new
academic direction. Recent IPS students have successfully pursued
such innovative majors as Cinematography, Entomology, Neuroscience,
Meteorology, and Middle Eastern Studies.

The development of an IPS program begins with the student’s perception
that a more appropriate field of study could exist beyond the present
majors. Consultation with the secretary of the IPS advisory committee
and with faculty members in related fields will soon establish whether
an original major is appropriate. Then, with the cooperation of one or
more faculty members who consent to serve as advisers for this IPS
program, an IPS major is planned and justified as carefully as if this were
a departmental major.

Once an IPS program is formulated, the student and adviser make formal
application to the IPS advisory committee, which evaluates and decides
whether a proposed IPS program is appropriate for the aims of both the
student and the college. The IPS Advisory Committee and the college
will determine whether BA or BS is appropriate for the proposed program
of study. Students interested in IPS are encouraged to inquire as early
as possible in the sophomore year. In all cases, IPS programs must
be initiated and approved before the end of the student’s junior year.
If program innovation sounds challenging and attractive, additional
information is available at the LAS Student Academic Affairs Office, 2002
Lincoln Hall.