How to Write Your INDS Degree Proposal

2 Learning Objectives

Place your courses into “categories” that become your “learning objectives”. Begin the section with, "In order to obtain my long range goals, I intend to:"

Number each objective and begin each statement with a strong action verb. Vary the verbs. Examples: study, explore, investigate, examine, evaluate, differentiate, assess. After each statement, list the courses (acronym, number, and title) that would apply to it. Courses can be applied to several objectives if they fit.

Your last learning objective is your INDS coursework. It is standard across all INDS proposals and should read:

Gain an understanding of the interdisciplinary process and apply it to my Capstone Project. INDS 330 Ways of Knowing, INDS 430 Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar, INDS 410 Internship (optional), INDS 400 Independent Study (optional), INDS 480 Capstone Project Seminar, INDS 490 Capstone Project.

1 Courses

Select courses that constitute your self-designed major.

You must have at least 42 credits at the 200-level and above. Use the UMBC Undergraduate Catalog, and be sure you meet the pre-requisites for all courses.

Keep the font consistent!

Share with your INDS and faculty advisors along the way.

3 Background Information

Why did you choose UMBC?

Why Interdisciplinary Studies versus another major?

What do you want the committee to know about you?

Do you have another major, or are you planning to complete a minor or certificate?

Was there someone or a particular experience that has inspired you to pursue this degree?

4 Long Range Goals

What do you want to do after you graduate with your Bachelor's in INDS? Graduate School? Job? What kind of career would you like to have in the future?

6 Capstone Project

Write out your idea for the final project you will complete in your last semester before graduation. Your project should be a focused idea related to your proposal topic and should integrate two or more learning objectives. Consider why an interdisciplinary approach is important to your topic. You will be formulating this idea even further when you are in the 1-credit INDS 480 Capstone Project Seminar. If you are stuck on ideas, it might help to meet with each faculty advisor individually to brainstorm potential projects.

5 Internship/Independent Study

These are not required, but highly recommended. Many students do an internship to gain work experience, while some like to have further research experience through an independent study. You do not have to have either set up when you write this section. You may propose what you would like to do at an internship at an organization that.... where you would learn... Or you may say that you would like to do an independent study where you investigate...

7 Course Charts

In the large required chart, every course for your major is entered. The title is listed as it appears in the course catalog. If you have completed the course, enter the grade. If it is a transfer course, indicate that in the transfer course column. You can include up to 12 transfer credits. In the 100-level chart, indicate the 100-level courses that are related to your major, the ones that show you have the background requirements for many of your courses needed in your major.

8 Final Steps

Schedule the triangle meeting with your INDS advisor and faculty advisors.

Make the final edits after that meeting.

All signatures must be on the cover sheet when submitted.

Know the deadline to submit!