

Guide to Planning your Honors Self-Designed Studies (HSDS) Program

➔ Preliminary considerations

- Research existing majors/minors that could potentially satisfy your goals.
*For example, if you are considering developing a major on "The Scientific Study of Human Nature," could you reach your same academic and professional goals with a traditional biology major and psychology minor?
- Select an HSDS program (stand-alone major, first major, second major or minor) to pursue by reviewing the options and specific requirements of each.
- Familiarize yourself with the proposal form for the selected HSDS program.



➔ Points to discuss with an advisor in **each of the disciplines** that will provide academic content, skills and experience

- Confirm that there is not an existing major/minor that could help you achieve your goals.
- Outline specific courses to be included in the proposal.
*Keep in mind that a few additional *electives* can be included to avoid scheduling conflicts, etc.
- Clarify prerequisites for recommended courses.
- Verify the rotation of the recommended courses for planning purposes.
*Many upper-division courses are offered only once every couple semesters or even years, so if you miss the course, you may not be able to complete your program requirements in time.



➔ Other considerations

- Unique opportunities and courses offered through education abroad, National Student Exchange, Research Experience for Undergraduates (REUs) and/or internship experiences that are not available at WKU. Your MHC academic advisor can help you set up an appointment with the appropriate office, if needed.
- Research internship opportunities that could be included in the HSDS program via MHC credit (HON 275 and HON 375).
- Begin thinking about how an Honors Augmentation Contract (HAC) and Capstone Experience/Thesis (CE/T) can support the learning goals of your HSDS program.
- Identify the faculty sponsor who will serve as your academic advisor for the proposed program. This faculty sponsor will most likely also be your Honors CE/T project mentor.

