

# SELF-DESIGNED MAJOR (BA)

Department Website (<https://cas.nyu.edu/academic-programs/bulletin/departments-and-programs/self-designed-honors-major.html>)

NYSED: 30390 HEGIS: 4901.00 CIP: 24.0101

## Program Description

Students in the College of Arts and Science (CAS) can apply to craft and complete a self-designed honors major, rather than one of the existing majors in the College. This major enables a small number of very capable and highly motivated students to pursue a plan of study that brings together courses from more than one CAS department or program. During their sophomore year, students compose their academic plan for the major in consultation with their two faculty advisers for their self-designed program of study as well as with the associate director of interschool programs and the director of college honors, who serves as the director of undergraduate studies. By spring of their second year, the plan of study must be submitted to and approved by the College's honors committee.

The self-designed honors major differs from the individualized major that the Gallatin School offers in several ways:

- These two NYU schools have distinct admissions criteria, general education curricula, and other requirements.
- This CAS major must be composed entirely of CAS (-UA) or GSAS (-GA) courses, whereas Gallatin students draw heavily on courses from several NYU schools.
- This CAS major is an honors major, which has prerequisites for entry (e.g., 3.75 GPA; students must maintain a 3.65 GPA to remain in the major) and entails a heavy commitment to honors-level work, including independent research under faculty supervision.

First- and second-year students in CAS who are considering the self-designed honors major should contact the Preprofessional Advising Center (<https://cas.nyu.edu/advising/how-advising-works/preprof.html>) (25 West 4th Street, 5th Floor; 212-998-8160) to schedule an initial advising appointment with the associate director of interschool programs.

## Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

## Program Requirements

The table below uses a self-designed major of twelve 4-credit courses (48 credits) only as an example. Students must earn a C or better in all courses required for the major (Pass/Fail courses do not count). Students work in close consultation with their CAS and departmental advisers throughout the duration of the program to select appropriate courses in all program areas.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
<i>Core Requirements</i>		
Select twelve 4-credit courses by advisement <sup>1</sup>		48

<i>Major Courses</i>		
Select twelve 4-credit courses by advisement <sup>1</sup>		48
<i>Electives</i>		
Select eight 4-credit elective courses by advisement <sup>1</sup>		32
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>128</b>

<sup>1</sup> May vary based on the major program of study.

## Sample Plan of Study

The table below uses a self-designed major of twelve 4-credit courses (48 credits) only as an example.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>1st Semester/Term</b>		
Major Course		4
Core Course		4
Core Course		4
Core Course		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>2nd Semester/Term</b>		
Major Course		4
Core Course		4
Core Course		4
Core Course		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>3rd Semester/Term</b>		
Major Course		4
Major Course		4
Core Course		4
Core Course		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>4th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Course		4
Major Course		4
Core Course		4
Core Course		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>5th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Course		4
Major Course		4
Core Course		4
Degree Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>6th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Course		4
Major Course		4
Core Course		4
Degree Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>7th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Course (Senior Thesis)		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>8th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Course (Senior Thesis)		4
Degree Elective		4
Degree Elective		4

Degree Elective	4
Credits	16
Total Credits	128

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have acquired:

1. Foundational and advanced knowledge of the content and methodologies of the disciplines represented in the self-designed program of study.
2. Discipline-specific analytical and research skills.
3. Proficiency in both written and oral communication.
4. The ability to a. examine problems and questions through the perspectives and approaches of different academic fields of study, and then to b. produce an interdisciplinary senior thesis presenting the results of original research.

## Policies

### NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

### College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).