

Steps for Completing an IDM Proposal with Psychology (updated May 2020)

STEP 1. We ask students to craft a strong application reflecting Duke's rigorous educational standards by clarifying how pursuing an Interdepartmental Major (IDM) degree will support their goals in a way that is not possible through pursuing any combination of individual degrees. The questions below are meant to guide you in this process. Your answers to these questions should help you discern your educational goals and compose a more convincing proposal. Your proposal will be considered incomplete without responses to these questions:

1. Why is it necessary for you to complete an IDM? How specifically will blending these two majors in this way help you with your career goals? What are you considering doing and why will this help you get there? Why do this as opposed to majoring in just one of these disciplines and minoring in the other, double-majoring, or crafting a Program II?
2. How will the courses you've selected support what you are proposing? Make a clear case.
3. Because there is no guarantee that all the courses you want will be offered in time for you to take them, we recommend making a list of several sensible backup courses.
4. One of the expectations for completing an IDM is that students will identify faculty members in both programs who will serve as their advisors for the IDM. We can help you narrow down possibilities, but you will be responsible for contacting them to explore the possibility of their serving as your IDM advisors. Have you already connected with faculty members who are willing to serve as advisors for your IDM?

STEP 2. Once you have justified pursuing an IDM degree with Psychology, you will fill out your proposal which includes the list of courses you plan to complete. An interdepartmental major must consist of a minimum of fourteen courses, split evenly between the two departments (e.g. seven course credits in each).

- At least ten of the courses must be at the 200-level or above.
- At least four of the seven courses required by each department must be taught within the department, as opposed to other departments at Duke (e.g., Sociol or Sta).
- No more than two of the fourteen courses may be taken away, abroad, or at home during the summer. (Courses taken through "Duke in" programs count like regular courses at Duke.)
- All courses must be among those normally accepted for each major.

PSY IDM Requirements Checklist (for planning purposes only; follow link below for official document):

For the BS IDM, at least two PSY courses, not including PSY 101, must be coded NS.

☐ PSY 101 ☐ PSY 204L* ☐ PSY 205L*

☐ PSY 102, 103, 104, 105, **OR** 106, Course #: _____

3 PSY electives

☐ Course # and title: _____ ☐ Course # and title: _____

☐ Course # and title: _____

*If you wish to take a different combination of statistics and research methods courses you will need to justify that in your application. Alternative courses must be approved by the Psychology DUS.

STEP 3. After completing Steps 1 and 2 above, you will be ready to **complete the IDM proposal linked [here](#)**. Make sure to follow the directions for obtaining signatures and submitting your final proposal to the email listed in the document. Read Trinity's complete information on IDM program [here](#).

If you need assistance with this process, you may set up virtual consultation with our Program Coordinator at <https://calendly.com/natsilvaharwood> or email us at psychologyDUS@duke.edu. Read this document first as it will likely answer many of your questions ☺