

**The University of Scranton News and Information Service**  
**Scranton, PA 18510-4628 · (570) 941-7662 · (570) 941-4097 FAX**

## **New Program Allows University of Scranton Students to Individualize Their Major**

*5 June 2008*

A new Individualized Major being offered at The University of Scranton beginning in the fall of 2008 will allow a select number of students to more definitively match their areas of study to the expertise of faculty.

While offered through the College of Arts and Sciences, the Individualized Major is interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary in nature, drawing upon faculty from academic areas throughout the university.

For example, a student interested in Asian Studies could take relevant courses in business, world languages, art history, history and economics.

“The Individualized Major is an exciting addition programs in the liberal arts, drawing upon a variety of disciplines and developing rich intellectual experiences,” said Joseph Dreisbach, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at The University of Scranton. “This new major will enhance the academic experience of students and will allow them to play a much more active role both in molding and being responsible for their program curriculum,” he added.

Scranton is not alone in offering the Individualized Major. Sixteen of the 28 Jesuit universities in the United States also offer the major, as do many of the colleges with whom the university competes for students. The program typically draws highly motivated, intellectually ambitious students.

Students can create their own unique programs of study, upgrade existing concentrations into majors and use the Individualized Major as a second major to explore interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary extensions of an established major.

Students interested in this major must have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Typically, the Individualized Major cannot be declared before the second semester of the sophomore year. Students interested in the major prepare a proposal that must be endorsed by two faculty mentors who will work with the student for the duration of the program.

As Dr. Dreisbach points out, the new program benefits faculty, as well as students. “The students will bring together faculty with interconnected interests,” he said.

At the end of each semester, students and mentors are required to submit a report to the Individualized Program Board, evaluating the progress of the major. During their final year, students complete a three- or six-credit integrative capstone project that synthesizes

the disciplines of the major.

“We in the College of Arts and Sciences are looking forward to the first set of student-faculty developed proposals for the Individualized Major,” said Dr. Dreisbach. “We fully expect these programs to be exciting, engaging, and demanding.”