



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Mark A. Emmert, President

April 15, 2008

Dean Ana Mari Cauce
College of Arts and Sciences
Box 353765

Dear Ana Mari:

Based on the recommendation of its Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards has recommended approval of the program name change from General Studies to Individualized Studies for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. A copy of the change is attached.

I am writing to inform you that the College of Arts and Sciences is authorized to specify these requirements beginning winter quarter 2008.

The new requirements should be incorporated in printed statements and in individual department websites as soon as possible. The *General Catalog* website will be updated accordingly by the Registrar's Office.

Sincerely yours,

Mark A. Emmert
President

Enclosure

cc: Dr. David Sayrs (with enclosure)
Mr. Robert Corbett (with enclosure)
Dr. Deborah H. Wiegand (with enclosure)
Todd Mildon, J.D. (with enclosure GENST-20071228)



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
**CREATING AND CHANGING UNDERGRADUATE
 ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

OFFICE USE ONLY
 1/11/08 11:28 AM

After college/school review, send a signed original and 3 copies to FCAS, Box 355850.

For information about when and how to use this form: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwcr/1503instructions.pdf>

College Arts & Sciences	Department or Unit General Studies	Date 12/28/07
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New Programs

- Leading to a Bachelor of _____ in _____ degree.
- Leading to a Bachelor of _____ degree with a major in _____
- Leading to a _____ Option within the existing major in _____
- Leading to a minor in _____

Changes to Existing Programs

- New Admission Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____
- Revised Admission Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____
- Revised Program Requirements for the Major in _____ within the Bachelor of _____
- Revised Requirements for the Option in _____ within the major in _____
- Revised Requirements for the Minor in _____

Other Changes

- Change name of program from General Studies (GEN ST) to Individualized Studies (INDIV)
- New or Revised Continuation Policy for _____
- Eliminate program in _____

Proposed Effective Date:

Quarter: Autumn Winter Spring Summer Year: 20_08

Contact Person David Says	Contact's Phone 206 - 616 - 7302	Contact's Email dsaysr@u.washington.edu
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EXPLANATION OF AND RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGE

For new programs, please include any relevant supporting documentation such as student learning outcomes, projected enrollments, letters of support and departmental handouts. (Use additional pages if necessary).

The name "General Studies" is ambiguous, misleading, and inaccurate. The meaning of the term is inconsistent across U.S. universities; at some schools it means what the UW calls "general education", at other schools it refers to a program for nontraditional students who complete existing majors, and at others it is a program of study students are obliged to "declare" if they are undecided on their major.

Amongst universities for which "general studies" refers to a major, the quality of the programs differ markedly, which serves to reduce the perceived value of UW's fairly rigorous major. Some schools offer a very structured program with no room for individual student design (e.g., 15 credits each of humanities, social sciences, and business; pick any 2 minors and combine them), while, on the other end of the spectrum, some schools have very unstructured programs (e.g., 75 credits of anything the school offers for credit).

Further, it is simply a poor title. The majors our students design are not "general" in the common sense of the word; they are not "involving only the main features rather than precise details: a general grasp of the subject." Rather, they are quite specific and individualized.

UW's program is much more similar to programs calling themselves "individualized studies" or "interdisciplinary studies", both in the process of creating the major (i.e., work with faculty and advisors, explore coursework, decide upon a theme, engage in an iterative process to construct the major, propose the major, receive approval from an interdisciplinary team of staff and faculty) and in the resulting curriculum (i.e., coherent, scholarly, interdisciplinary, individualized).

CATALOG COPY

Catalogue Copy as currently written. Include only sections/paragraphs that would be changed if you request is approved. Please cross out or otherwise highlight any deletions.

Remove any instance of "General Studies."

PROPOSED CATALOG COPY

Reflecting requested changes (include exact wording as you wish it to be shown in the printed catalog. Please underline or otherwise highlight any additions. If needed, attach a separate, expanded version of the changes that might appear in department publications)

Replace any instance of "General Studies" with "Individualized Studies."

SIGNATURES (required)

Chair/Program Director

Date

1/9/08

Dean

Ronald L. Irving

Date

JAN 28 2008

College Committee

[Signature]

Date

JAN 28 2008

Faculty Council on Academic Standards

[Signature]

Date

3-7-08

