

Student-Initiated Major (SIM)

As excerpted from the Stephens College Curriculum Catalog for 2019-20, pg. 11. February 10, 2020 posting date.

The student-initiated major (SIM) is available for the student whose academic interests, abilities and career goals are not directed toward a traditional major. This non-traditional major is designed by the student with the assistance of a faculty planning committee. Student-initiated majors are drawn primarily from two programs offered as a major or minor at Stephens College. The SIM is named based on the programs chosen, e.g. fashion-art, biology-dance, or strategic communication-women's studies. Transfer credit may be included in the required degree credits for a student-initiated major only when the courses are approved by the appropriate deans(s) to substitute for courses within the discipline that offers the major or minor. A student-initiated major may incorporate study abroad as well as programs that are available through other accredited colleges or universities.

To explore the possibilities of a student-initiated major, a student discusses her interests with her faculty adviser. When plans progress, a planning committee is formed that includes the student, the adviser, deans from the primary disciplines, or faculty members who represent particular academic or career interests. The student writes a rationale for the major and prepares a projected academic plan that is inclusive of all degree requirements. The proposal must meet the general guidelines for a degree in the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Science, or the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree programs. The original proposal is subject to discussion and revision until approved by the planning committee and reviewed by the registrar. Once approved, the plan for the major is forwarded to the Office of the Registrar where it becomes a permanent part of the student's academic record.

Guidelines for the preparation of a proposal for a student-initiated major are available in the Office of the Registrar. The application and approval process should be completed **by the end of the student's sophomore year** (usually the fourth semester of full-time enrollment). Transfer students entering with junior standing will be allowed one semester for the approval process to be completed.

Students are not allowed to combine coursework from majors in the same program into a SIM. For example, the Fashion Design and Product Development, Fashion Communication and Fashion Marketing Management degrees are part of the same program, so cannot be combined to form a SIM. Students are not permitted to complete one of the Stephens College degrees in its entirety. Students wishing to complete more than one major should refer to the Dual Degree and Double Major options.

Your advisor will work with you to develop a plan and framework for success and to ensure all degree requirement and milestones are met.