

Have You Seen This Major?

INDIVIDUALIZED MAJOR

The individualized major exists for students who want a particular major that Missouri State does not currently offer, but does have the coursework available to support it.

This major is for students who have a clear sense of direction and know exactly what they want to do after graduation.



SEE WHAT AN INDIVIDUALIZED MAJOR HAS TO SAY...



JACKIE STILES

“After finishing my basketball career for the Lady Bears in the 2001, I was picked fourth overall in the WNBA draft by the Portland Fire. I went on to become Rookie of the Year that season. I was also named to the 2001 WNBA All-Star Team. My individualized major was a Bachelor of Science degree in Sport and Fitness Promotion that I received from Missouri State University in 2002. I then went on to play my second season for the Portland Fire where I suffered numerous injuries. I made one final attempt to come back and play in the Australian league in 2006. I was forced to retire in 2006 due to injury. I have now dedicated myself to helping athletes around the country achieve their dreams. I started my own business in 2007, J. Stiles Total Training. I now run basketball camps and clinics for all ages all over the country. I also do speaking engagements and personal training. I just came out with several instructional videos as well. My website is Jackiestilesbasketball.com.”



CAMERON CALEF

“My advice to students considering an individualized major would be this: do it! The ability to create your own major is an amazing opportunity provided by Missouri State which many students overlook. If you have a legitimate reason for creating your own major instead of declaring one which already exists, then you might as well give it a try. The creation of an individualized major requires much research, work, time, and advice from faculty and staff; however, the end product is very rewarding.”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE DEGREE

Does this major require a minor? What minors work well with this major?

The individualized major is a comprehensive major and does not require a minor. However, many students find they have enough hours in one of their areas to complete a minor.

Does this major require a practicum or internship?

This major requires the student to complete a senior project. The senior project is overseen by the chair person of their faculty advisory committee. It must combine all three areas of study and be applicable to the career they want from their major.

What are the admission requirements to the major?

A minimum of a 2.0 GPA is required. Students must also take coursework from three different departments and have a full time faculty advisor from each of those.

AFTER THE DEGREE

How would you describe the demand for this major?

The individualized major has become a very popular major over the last couple of years. Student interest in certain subject areas tends to cycle. A few of the recent popular individualized majors have been Writing for Television and Screen, Middle Eastern Studies, and Asian Studies. Once the demand is high enough for a certain major, the department will look at adding that major as an option for students.

What are some typical jobs for graduates with this major?

Jobs with this major vary depending on the major chosen. Employers tend to hire these students more quickly due to the specialized nature of the major.

What are some of the most successful graduates from the major doing?

Many of our Asian Studies students are working or teaching in China. One student has opened her own basketball training business and has been very successful. We also have several who now work in the TV and film industry.

Do careers in this field require or prefer graduate study?

Many students will continue their education pursuing a master's degree in their field.

Any students interested in pursuing an individualized major should discuss it with his or her current advisor and then make an appointment with

**Lori Roessler, Program Coordinator, Academic Assistance
(417) 836-5034.**

She will help determine if an individualized major is an option.

For more information, please visit our website at

<http://www.missouristate.edu/StudentSuccess/51599.htm>.