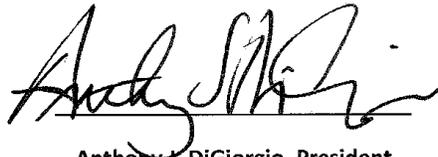


Program Planning Summary

**Bachelor of Arts
In
Individualized Studies**

**College of Arts and Sciences
Winthrop University**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. DiGiorgio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Anthony J. DiGiorgio, President

August 1, 2011

Program Planning Summary

Institution:	Winthrop University
New Program Proposed:	Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Individualized Studies
Length of Program:	Four years
Credit hours required:	124
LIFE/PFS Enhancement:	Does not qualify
Proposed Date of Implementation:	Fall 2013

Justification of need:

Both prospective and current students have expressed an interest in developing individualized degree programs, consistent with many of the attributes of the “Millennial Generation” as described by William Strauss and Neil Howe (2000). Many college-aged students have been very sheltered and regulated by attentive parents; but they also have often had a wide array of experiences, have developed into confident, self-assured young adults, and have grown up with a huge array of choices. One outcome of these characteristics is that some incoming students wish to pursue an undergraduate degree which does not necessarily fit established degree programs. They are confident in their abilities to design their own program based on their career ambitions. Winthrop University is interested in considering a response to this new generation of student.

Anticipated program demand and productivity:

Because this degree program will require a highly motivated, confident, and results driven student with a real vision for their future, demand is not likely to be very high. We anticipate no more than a dozen students on campus pursuing an individualized degree program at any one time. Other students may be attracted to Winthrop based on this degree offering but are likely to opt for established majors and minors. Thus, degree productivity is likely to be on the order of a maximum of 4-5 degrees per academic year.

Assessment of extent to which the program duplicates existing program in the state:

A BA and a BS in Individualized Curriculum Program are available at Furman University and are most similar to what we propose for Winthrop University (BA in Individualized Studies). Thus we do not feel that duplication is an issue.

It should, however, be noted that degree programs in Interdisciplinary Studies are available in South Carolina at a variety of institutions. BAIS (BA in Interdisciplinary Studies) and BSIS (BS in Interdisciplinary Studies) degrees are offered by Coastal Carolina University, USC- Columbia, USC – Aiken, and USC – Upstate. BA and BS degrees with a variety of names related to Interdisciplinary Studies are offered by Benedict College, North Greenville University, Converse College, Newberry College, and Columbia College. An honors degree program in Interdisciplinary Studies (BArSc) is also offered by USC – Columbia.

Relationship of program to existing programs at Winthrop University:

The Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Studies is a challenging and rigorous program for students whose academic interests reach across or beyond the major programs currently offered by the university. The

degree program allows students to develop a plan of study that is innovative, creative, integrative, and flexible and that explores some area of study not defined by a single discipline; to apply the concepts of their individual major in research projects, internships, service learning, and study abroad; and to synthesize knowledge from different disciplines to approach problems and produce meaningful results.

Students are responsible, in collaboration with the faculty advisor(s), for demonstrating in the program of study that the individualized major does not duplicate an existing major or represent an academically less rigorous version of it, that the student cannot reasonably pursue a similar major at Winthrop, and that the student can reasonably meet the prerequisites for taking the proposed courses.

The program will be housed in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (new August 2011) in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Relationship of program to other institutions via inter-institutional cooperation: none

Outline of curriculum:

Advised by a carefully selected committee and a designated faculty mentor or mentors, students will propose a carefully crafted program of study which will include concentrations within 3-4 areas.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will gather information and demonstrate understanding of defining concepts from three to four areas of study and will combine those concepts to propose a unique major to be independently pursued.
- Students will apply the concepts of their unique area of study in an internship or in an independent research project.
- Through a final project or internship, students will show that they have integrated knowledge from different areas of study to examine a question or problem.

General Program Parameters

- 124 semester hours of credit to complete the degree
- Touchstone Program (General Education) requirements (46-58 hours)
- 3-4 areas of concentration
- At least 50 semester hours at the 300-, 400-, or 500-level
- At least 15 semester hours at the 300-, 400-, or 500-level in each area of concentration
- At least 21 semester hours completed after program approval
- Senior research project, analytical paper, or internship requirement which demonstrates the coherence of the individualized major and addresses a question or problem (3-6 hours)

Total costs associated with implementing the program:

Few new costs are anticipated as the program builds on current strengths of Winthrop University. The program will be easily supported within the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. No new support staff will be required; the program director will need to be appointed and will require some reassigned time to work with current and prospective students.

Strauss, W. & Howe, N. (2000). *Millennials rising: The next great generation*. New York: Vintage Books.