

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED MAJORS

Individually Designed Majors in Engineering (IDMENs) are intended for undergraduates interested in studying engineering in areas not covered by departmental majors or the pre-approved School of Engineering sub-plans. Each IDMEN curriculum is designed by the student in consultation with at least two faculty advisors. Each student's primary academic advisor must be a member of the Stanford Academic Council, which means that Lecturers and Visiting Professors cannot fill this role. Students must also have a secondary advisor; this faculty member can be a member of a Stanford School other than Engineering and need not necessarily be a member of the Stanford Academic Council. The purpose of requiring a second advisor is to ensure that the student receives sufficient guidance about aspects of the proposed course of study that may lie outside the field of expertise of the primary advisor. The IDMEN degree is designated as a "Bachelor of Science in an Individually Designed Major in Engineering: *Approved Title*." This degree program is not accredited by ABET (see later section on Accreditation for more information).

To pursue an IDMEN, a student must submit a written proposal to the IDMEN Subcommittee of the Undergraduate Council detailing her or his proposed course of study; you may bring your proposal to 201 Terman. IDMEN programs must meet the general minimum requirements established for School of Engineering majors:

- 21 units of mathematics
- 17 units of science
- One course on Technology in Society
- 40 units of School of Engineering courses, at least three of which must be Engineering Fundamentals courses
- Additional courses to bring the total to at least 90 but not more than 107 units

Each proposal must contain the following four elements:

1. **Rationale.** The proposal should begin with a carefully crafted statement that describes the major, characterizes the proposer's motivation for pursuing it, justifies it intellectually, indicates the proposer's ultimate goal and how the major relates to it, shows how the courses comprising its curriculum make sense given its purpose, and tells why this plan of study cannot be pursued in any existing School of Engineering major. A proposed title for the major, the accepted version of which will be shown on the student's diploma and transcript, should be

included. Sample proposals are available for review in the Office of Student Affairs, Terman 201.

2. **Individually Designed Major program sheet.** This form, available in this handbook (see the forms section) and accessible as an Excel spreadsheet on the web at <http://ughb.stanford.edu>, should be filled out completely including an indication of which course the student intends to take to fulfill the university's Writing in the Major (WIM) requirement. The bottom of the second page of the IDMEN program sheet must be signed by two faculty members: the student's primary advisor, who **must** be an Academic Council member of the School of Engineering faculty, and a secondary advisor. These signatures certify that the advisors endorse the major as described in the proposal and agree to serve as the student's permanent advisors.
3. **Four-year plan.** This form is also available in the "Forms" section of this handbook and on the web at <http://ughb.stanford.edu>. The courses listed as part of the plan should comprise a well-coordinated sequence that fosters mastery of the important principles and techniques in a well-defined field.
4. **Letter of support.** A letter of support from the student's primary advisor appraising the academic value and viability of the proposed major and the student's ability to successfully complete it must accompany the Proposal.

Students proposing to pursue an IDMEN must have at least four quarters of undergraduate work remaining at Stanford after the quarter in which their proposals are submitted. Any changes in a previously approved major must be endorsed by the faculty advisors and reapproved by the IDMEN Subcommittee of the Undergraduate Council. Proposals are reviewed and acted upon once per quarter by the IDMEN subcommittee. Proposals should be submitted to Darlene Lazar in the Office of Student Affairs, Terman 201. Deadlines for proposal submission this year are:

Autumn Quarter: October 24, 2008

Winter Quarter: February 6, 2009

Spring Quarter: May 1, 2009

Once the proposal has been accepted by the IDMEN subcommittee, the School of Engineering will notify the registrar to add the approved major to your information in Axess. Further information and assistance in preparing proposals are available from the Office of Student Affairs, Terman 201. **Students are strongly encouraged to read "School of Engineering/Individually Designed Majors," a handout prepared by the Undergraduate Council for students interested in the IDMEN alternative. This handout is available from the Office of Student Affairs.**