

AAHVS Guidelines for Interdepartmental Majors

Students whose interests encompass two academic disciplines may wish to consider declaring an interdepartmental major (or IDM). An IDM draws in equal measure upon two Trinity College departments or programs that offer a major.

There are two types of Interdepartmental Majors in Trinity College: *department-originated IDMs* that students can declare similar to any other major, and *student-originated IDMs*, which are individualized programs proposed by a student that must go through a review process. Before pursuing a student-proposed IDM, undergraduates are strongly encouraged to consider whether their academic goals might be served through a double-major or a major/minor combination.

Trinity policies on Interdepartmental Majors are outlined in detail here: <https://trinity.duke.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies/majors-minors-certificates-interdepartmental-major>

Departmental-Originated IDM in Computational Media (VMS + CS)

The Department of Art, Art History, and Visual Studies offers a *department-originated* IDM in Visual & Media Studies + Computer Science. See <https://aahvs.duke.edu/computational-media-interdepartmental-major> for details.

Student-Originated IDMs (ARTHIST+X, ARTSVIS+X, or VMS+X)

Alternatively, students can propose an IDM between one of the three AAHVS majors -- Art History, Visual Arts, or Visual & Media Studies -- and another complementary discipline.

Interested students should schedule an exploratory advising appointment with a potential faculty mentor and/or the Director of Undergraduate Studies in both departments. Again, IDMs should only be proposed when a student's academic goals cannot be served through a traditional double-major, through Program II, or through a major/minor combination. The [Trinity application process](#) requires that students justify their proposal and have it vetted by faculty advisors and DUSs in both participating departments, as well as a Trinity Dean.

An IDM consists of 14 courses, evenly split between the two departments. Courses should be selected carefully in consultation with a faculty advisor to ensure a coherent, rigorous, and focused course of study. At least five (5) of the AAHVS courses must be at the 200-level or above. A maximum of two (2) courses taken away from Duke will count toward the IDM.

Additionally, each major in AAHVS has established the following guidelines for student-proposed IDMs:

IDM with Art History

An IDM with Art History (ARTHIST) should consist of:

- Seven (7) ARTHIST courses
- An identified area of specialization
- At least one (1) course must be a 400-699 level seminar
- At least one (1) course must focus on art history prior to 1800

IDM with Visual Arts

An IDM with Visual Arts (ARTSVIS) should consist of:

- Seven (7) ARTSVIS courses
- At least one (1) but no more than two (2) 100-level introductory visual arts courses
- At least four (4) courses at the 200-level or above
- Either ARTSVIS 497S Advanced Visual Practice (fall of senior year) or ARTSVIS 496S/498S Visual Arts Capstone (spring of senior year)

IDM with Visual & Media Studies

An IDM with Visual & Media Studies (VMS) should consist of:

- VMS 202D Introduction to Visual Culture
- VMS 327S Theories of Visual & Media Studies
- At least one (1) course in art history / media history (VMS, CINE, or ARTHIST)
- At least one (1) course in visual / media / arts practice (VMS, CINE, or ARTSVIS)
- At least one (1) course must be a VMS 400-699 level seminar