

# Muir Special Project Major

The Muir Special Project major is a **B.A.-only individual major**.

## Eligibility

To qualify for the MSP Major you must:

- Be a Muir College student.
- Have 90 or more units complete.
- Have a minimum 3.25 cumulative UC GPA.
- Have completed MCWP 40, MCWP 50, and all Muir GE.
- Be able to finish your degree within the campus unit maximum.

## Kinds of Special Projects

There are two kinds of Muir Special Projects:

1. An **interdisciplinary major** that consists of 48 upper-division units from two or more different departments. These courses must be **thematically related** and form a course of study **comparable in depth and scope** to a traditional major, and must culminate in a **final thesis**.
2. An **independent project** that focuses on **creating a research or creative work** such as a research paper; a collection of art, installation, or major art piece; a performance; or a large piece or collection of creative writing. Work on the project should begin in the junior year, though planning should begin earlier.

## Applying for an MSP Major

To apply for the major, you need to have:

1. A 1-5 page written description of the project which addresses:
  - a. What is the educational focus of the proposed major (what do you want to learn and study?)
  - b. Why your proposed major is *academically significant*.
  - c. Why are *existing majors on campus not appropriate* for supporting your goals?
  - d. What is the proposed context of this major. (What preparation have you done for this major, academically and otherwise? How do the courses you have chosen fit into a cohesive curriculum?)
  - e. What do you plan to do for your thesis or independent project?
2. A ladder-rank UC San Diego faculty member who will agree to serve as your thesis or project advisor. The faculty advisor must approve your proposal, and may revise it before approving and will have to certify satisfactory completion of your thesis or project before you can graduate. You will need

to approach this person yourself – the college will not provide a faculty sponsor.

## Application Deadline

To change major in....	Deadline
Fall	Friday Week 7, preceding Spring
Winter	Friday Week 7, preceding Fall
Spring	Friday Week 7, preceding Winter

## Independent Study Courses

Students may use appropriate 199 courses for their major or may enroll in MSP 199, which may be taken for a letter grade. Students may not normally enroll in more than 4 units of special studies courses in one quarter. When enrolled in a MUIR 199 course, you must submit a MUIR 199 contract outlining the proposed work, a book list, and a statement of how this work relates to the overall major or project. This contract must be signed by the instructor and submitted to the college by Friday of week 7 of the preceding quarter. You must submit a contract for each quarter in which you enroll in MSP 199.

## Finishing Your Major

To finish your major you must complete the following:

- Pass all courses in your major with grades of C or better (or P grades in departmental 199 courses.)
- A written statement (which may be an email) from your faculty advisor stating that you have completed your culminating piece of work.
- You must submit your final culminating work to the Provost, who must certify completion of your major.

## Considerations

- Students who plan to attend graduate or professional school may want to consider the entrance requirements of those programs before selecting an independent major.
- MSP majors may not satisfy major requirements for specific single-subject teaching credentials in California.
- Your major will be listed on your diploma with the following wording:

*THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL STUDIES MAJOR IN (MSP MAJOR TITLE) WITH ALL OF THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES THERETO PERTAINING*

TO APPLY FOR THE MSP MAJOR, COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PID \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Major Title \_\_\_\_\_

This will be an:  Interdisciplinary major  
 Independent project

I plan to complete  A final thesis or major paper.  
 A major presentation, performance, or creative work

Please describe the proposed work: \_\_\_\_\_

How will you document the work? \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

**Courses You Want to Use Toward Your Proposed Major**

You must complete at least 48 upper-division units (12 courses) for the major	Course	Have you completed the class?			Significance to Major
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	
		No	In Progress	Yes, Final Grade:	

**List any field work, volunteer work, employment, or experience that will inform your work in the proposed major.**

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**Attach a 1-5 page statement that explains:**

1. What is the educational focus of the proposed major (what do you want to learn and study?)
2. Why your proposed major is *academically significant*.
3. Why are *existing majors on campus not appropriate* for supporting your goals?
4. What is the proposed context of this major? (What preparation have you done for this major, academically and otherwise? How do the courses you have chosen fit into a cohesive curriculum?)
5. What do you plan to do for your thesis or independent project?

**Required Approvals**

Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Muir College Provost: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Completion of Eligibility Requirements** (to be completed by Muir Advising Office)

Cumulative UC GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative Units \_\_\_\_\_ GE requirements Complete? Yes No