

SELF-DESIGNED

<http://www.uvm.edu/cals/?Page=selfdesmajor.html>

Looking for your academic niche? Are you innovative? Are you a motivated, hands-on learner who wants something more from a college education? Consider the Self-Designed major offered through UVM's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs).

The Self-Designed Major is for highly motivated students with strong academic goals. Maybe your ideal major is missing from traditional programs, or maybe it encompasses two areas of study that you want to combine. If you are a hands-on learner — thus experiential learning is critical to your academic goals — a Self-Designed Major will allow you to tailor your studies to your learning style as well as particular career goals. It is flexible, rigorous and emphasizes experiential learning, promoting skills that twenty-first century careers demand.

Students are attracted to the Self-Designed Major's innovation and flexibility. As an integrated and interdisciplinary program, students may draw on the expertise of faculty across CALs and UVM. All students who enroll in the program must complete

the basic core requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree from the CALs. In addition you will be required to complete courses which you selected in the program you designed. If the courses that you would like to include are not offered at UVM, you may arrange to take them elsewhere. The classes you take should prepare you for your internship experience.

The following list provides an example of the diversity of topics in which previous students have designed their majors: Ethnobotany, Botanical Medicine, Restoration Forestry, Ecological Design, Diversified Agriculture, Agriculture Education, and Communication Management.

DEGREES OFFERED

- Bachelor of Science in Self-Design

INTERNSHIPS

Undergraduates pursuing a Self-Designed Major are expected to include experiential learning activities as part of their program. These internship activities are an essential component of each student's education. They provide direct experience as well as important future career contacts. Examples of sites where students have interned include the Green Mountain Audubon Center, Vermont Expos, US Olympic Track Team (Sidney, Australia), MTV/House of Style in New York City, Spinazzola Foundation in Massachusetts, Aprovecho Sustainable Research Center in Oregon, and the Council on International Educational Exchange Consortium in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

RESEARCH

There are a variety of avenues open to Self-Designed Majors who want to earn credit for undergraduate research during their career at UVM. For more information, contact one of the faculty on the Self-Designed Major Committee.

THE CALS CORE

In addition to individual courses and learning experiences selected and designed by the student, all Self-Designed majors complete the CALS core curriculum. The core develops a fundamental base of *knowledge, skills, and values* that serve as a foundation for lifelong learning. Students learn about and apply tools to effectively communicate, analyze, problem solve, think critically and work with others. They are exposed to values expressed through relationships with community, environment, and themselves that are consistent with the mission of CALS.

FACULTY AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE

The following faculty members serve as advisors to students pursuing a self-designed major through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Jonathan G. Leonard, Ph.D., Program Director and Chair
Community Development and Applied Economics;
information technology, public speaking and ecology

Catherine A. Paris, Ph.D.
Botany and Agricultural Biochemistry; plant
systematic, biography, and New England flora

Thomas F. Patterson, Jr., Ph.D.
Community Development and Applied Economics;
organization behavior and experiential learning

Amy B. Trubek, Ph.D.
Nutrition and Food Sciences; Contemporary food
systems, cooking as a cultural practice, taste of place,
and history of the culinary profession

CORE COURSES

Foundations
Written Communications
Oral Communications
Information Technology
Mathematics
Statistics
Physical and Life Sciences
Social Sciences
Humanities and Fine Arts
Race and Culture
Physical Education

ADVANCED COURSES

Students design this part of their major

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:



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