



## Shaped Major

### PROPOSAL FOR SHAPED MAJOR AT YESHIVA COLLEGE :

Like departmental majors at the College, the Shaped Major is meant to move beyond the shared “general” education experience of the Core, and to provide students with in-depth, intensive work in a particular area of intellectual interest. For most students, the traditional departmental majors meet this goal, focusing within a discipline. But some students’ intellectual goals cross the boundaries between liberal arts disciplines and their departments—and we would like the College to be able to provide the conditions for meeting those goals, which can be equally rewarding and legitimate. Providing a Shaped Major can also extend in exciting ways the intellectual reach of educational opportunities at a small liberal arts college.

Students hoping to pursue a Shaped Major should work with a faculty member in their area of interest to frame their goals for the Shaped Major—and to make sure that these goals cannot be met within an existing departmental major (many of which include interdisciplinary inquiry, and are amenable to petitions from students to count one or two courses outside their department toward the major). On the basis of those goals, a PROPOSAL PACKET should be submitted to the Curriculum Committee and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, consisting of the following items:

1. A 500-750 word narrative framing of the focus of the student’s Shaped Major, including the organizing questions that the student hopes to address. This narrative should also identify the central ideas that give this Shaped Major coherence; provide an explanation of how it is different from existing departmental majors; and discuss what the student hopes to know at the end of this course of study, how this program of study will contribute to the student’s future plans, and the basis on which the student has selected the courses he needs to complete the Shaped Major.
  
  2. At least one “anchor” course, ideally taken toward the beginning of the student’s coursework, that will address the central questions of this Shaped Major. <sup>2</sup> (organized by semester
- x Courses to fulfill the Major must come from at least two different departments of the College, and the proposal should provide department, course number, and title for each course. (In some cases, it may make sense to include alternate elective courses.)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2000-level and above) level. \_\_\_\_\_

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