Blend two or more academic areas of interest to create your own major

Develop your own unique curriculum with help from faculty advisors

Benefit from living in a closely-knit, caring learning environment for women

Distinguish yourself in the job market with a one-of-a-kind degree

why you belong here

Do you have trouble with the idea of choosing just one established area of focus for your degree? Would like to shape your own education by studying topics that truly interest you and are relevant to your plans for the future? If so, then you belong at Chatham University.

Here, you have the unique opportunity to design your own major by combining two or more distinct academic areas of interest and working closely with a faculty advisor to determine the curriculum. Recent self-designed majors include bio-nutrition, political communication, Social Services and the elderly, and politics of philosophy and art.

Expand your understanding of the world and set yourself apart in a crowded job market with a degree that is uniquely your own. In the self-designed program at Chatham University, your course of study is as wide as your interests and imagination.

what you can expect

As a self-designed major student, you will work closely with a faculty advisor to prepare a proposal for your major which will include your educational goals, what you aim to learn or your learning outcomes, and a detailed plan of study including all courses that would apply to the major. The proposal is then reviewed by two additional faculty members in disciplines most closely related to the proposed major, and approved by a committee of three full-time undergraduate faculty members.
what you will learn

No matter your curriculum, as a student at Chatham University, your coursework will inevitably integrate the three primary themes of the University’s mission – global understanding, environmental responsibility, and women’s issues – as you learn to make a positive impact on your own life and the lives of those in the world around you.

Our dedicated faculty will work to develop your personal, professional, and leadership skills to their fullest potential. You will be equipped with the skills you need to gather information, find and evaluate that information, assimilate the information within the context of a problem or situation, combine the information with other knowledge and perspectives, and act upon it in ways that are ethical and beneficial to the whole. All of these are essential tools for successful living, working, and continued learning.

where it will take you

Imagine being the only major of your kind among dozens of other applicants for an internship, full-time position, or advanced degree program. A self-designed major shows potential employers or graduate school programs that you have discipline, ingenuity, and initiative. It shows that you think differently, which will make you a valuable candidate for almost any opportunity or endeavor you wish to pursue.

learn more

Read about the self-designed major and minor requirements at chatham.edu/selfdesign.

“I had interests in several art forms from film to music to installation art, and I knew what I needed to learn to develop my skills. Because I wanted to explore such a specific multimedia major, I would have had to settle and only choose one area of study at the majority of colleges. I would recommend this program to any student interested in combining multiple talents into one major. I didn’t have to compromise my career dreams or myself in my studies – Chatham let me be me!”

— Alexa Raquel Casciato, self-designed major in electronic music and media

trending now

• At Chatham, the process of career development and preparation for the future is integrated into all facets of the university experience. You will be required to complete at least one experiential component, such as an internship, volunteer experience, shadowing, or research project, appropriate to your program of study.

• Learn at Eden Hall Campus, Chatham University’s newest 388-acre campus. Designed to become one of the first fully-sustainable campuses in higher education, Eden Hall offers a unique experience to solve complex, real-world sustainability and environmental challenges through total immersion in topics that include food studies, agriculture and land use, energy and water management, green development, social and economic issues, and the business of sustainability.