



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Pennoni  
Honors College

# CATALOG

2020-2021

**UNDERGRADUATE**



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# Table of Contents

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The Pennoni Honors College ..... 2

    Custom-Designed Major ..... 2

    Minor in Interdisciplinary Problem Solving ..... 3

Index ..... 5

# The Pennoni Honors College

## About the College

The mission of Drexel University's Pennoni Honors College is to enrich the University experience for talented and ambitious students from all majors. The College has five units: the Honors Program, the Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry (which includes The Symposium and the Custom-Designed Major), the Office of Undergraduate Research (which includes the STAR Scholars and SuperNova Programs), the Center for Scholar Development (which includes the Drexel Fellowships Office (<http://drexel.edu/fellowships/>) and Undergraduate Scholarly Enrichment (<https://drexel.edu/pennoni/scholardevelopment/scholarly-enrichment/>)), and the Marketing & Media department (which includes *TheSmartSet.com*, Pop, the Question (<https://drexel.edu/pennoni/media/Podcast/>) podcast, Honor Bound magazine (<https://drexel.edu/pennoni/media/phc-magazine/>), and *The Drexel InterView*, now known as *The Civil Discourse*). Students have the opportunity to apply to the Pennoni Honors Program as late as the spring term of their second year. The other programs and initiatives in the College are open to all students at the University with the appropriate interests and record of achievement. The College also administers the High School Scholars Program for exceptional high school students.

The Pennoni Honors College was endowed by Annette and C.R. "Chuck" Pennoni, CEO of Pennoni Associates. Mr. Pennoni, a Drexel graduate, was a two-time interim president of the University. He embodies the qualities of leadership, integrity, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to Drexel and the larger world that the College seeks to imbue in its students. With the help of a gift from Greg Bentley, CEO of Bentley Systems, and his wife Caroline, Drexel University will open Bentley Hall, a combined residence, programming, seminar, and office space.

## Major

- Custom-Designed Major (p. 2)  
(within the Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry)

## Minor

- Interdisciplinary Problem-Solving (p. 3)

## Custom-Designed Major

*Major: Custom-Designed Major*

*Degree Awarded: Bachelor of Science (BS)*

*Calendar Type: Quarter*

*Total Credit Hours: 180.0*

*Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code: 24.0101*

*Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code: 11-9199*

## About the Program

The Custom-Designed Major enables students to pursue an individualized course of study at Drexel University not readily available through an existing major, or a combination of existing majors and/or minors. The program is designed for highly motivated students whose interdisciplinary curiosity and career ambitions cannot be satisfied by a traditional major. Students typically interested in pursuing a Custom-Designed Major are

motivated by a particular theme, topic, issue, or problem that can be more holistically addressed by combining multiple fields of knowledge.

The major offers students the opportunity for an early intensive research experience, incorporates cooperative education as part of its degree requirements (either four years with one co-op, or five years with three co-ops), and culminates in an original, interdisciplinary senior-year project.

Each student accepted into the program will be advised by the program staff and closely mentored during their senior year by one or more Drexel faculty members with expertise in at least one of the disciplines composing the student's proposed course of study. Students may be admitted as entering freshmen or by external or internal transfer. Current Drexel students seeking a change of major to Custom-Designed must have final applications submitted by Week One of the summer term preceding their junior year. Students **do not** need to be members of the Honors Program to be eligible to apply to the program.

For additional information about applying to this program, contact either the Program Director, Dr. Kevin D. Egan at [kde25@drexel.edu](mailto:kde25@drexel.edu) or Associate Director, Dr. Katie Barak at [ksb89@drexel.edu](mailto:ksb89@drexel.edu).

## Admission Requirements

Admission to the Custom-Designed Major will be determined on the basis of an application portfolio. Please note: Students do not need to be members of the Honors Program in order to apply to the major. In addition to the standard admissions application, the portfolio will contain:

- A vision statement describing in detail what the student hopes to accomplish during their time in the program, as well as explaining why the student's educational goals cannot be met by pursuing a traditional Drexel major, a double major, or a major combined with minors.
- A plausible plan of study for achieving the student's aims by drawing upon multiple existing Drexel programs and mapping out term by term which courses the student intends on taking
- Student transcript
- SAT scores
- Two letters of support from individuals who can speak to the student's desire and ability to embark on an unconventional, individualized course of study
- When requested, examples of projects completed independently by the student in either a school or an extracurricular setting

## Degree Requirements

### Foundation Requirements

COOP 101	Career Management and Professional Development	1.0
CIVC 101	Introduction to Civic Engagement	1.0
UNIV X101	The Drexel Experience	1.0
ENGL 101	Composition and Rhetoric I: Inquiry and Exploratory Research	3.0
	or ENGL 111 English Composition I	
ENGL 102	Composition and Rhetoric II: Advanced Research and Evidence-Based Writing	3.0
	or ENGL 112 English Composition II	
ENGL 103	Composition and Rhetoric III: Themes and Genres	3.0
	or ENGL 113 English Composition III	
CSDN 101 [WI]	Introduction to Multi-Disciplinary Methods	1.0
CSDN 102	Knowledge by Design Seminar	1.0
CSDN 203	Custom-Designed Major Seminar	1.0
CSDN 210	Methods of Interdisciplinary Inquiry	3.0
CSDN 220	Integrative Research Methods	3.0

CSDN 304	Custom-Designed Major Proj I	3.0
CSDN 305	Custom-Designed Major Project II	3.0
CSDN 306	Custom-Designed Major Project III	3.0
Humanities courses		9.0
Social sciences courses		9.0
Mathematics courses		6.0
Science courses		8.0
<b>Customized Course Selection*</b>		
Built out in the student's proposed plan of study, these courses are approved by CSDN advisers, departmental representatives, and/or expert faculty during the application process. Students work with their CSDN advisers quarterly to determine updated course selections and sequencing.		118.0
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>180.0</b>

\* Three 300- or 400-level courses in each discipline comprising a significant component of the custom-designed curriculum. All prerequisite courses for these selected courses must also be satisfied.

## Writing-Intensive Course Requirements

In order to graduate, all students must pass three writing-intensive courses after their freshman year. Two writing-intensive courses must be in a student's major. The third can be in any discipline. Students are advised to take one writing-intensive class each year, beginning with the sophomore year, and to avoid "clustering" these courses near the end of their matriculation. Transfer students need to meet with an academic advisor to review the number of writing-intensive courses required to graduate.

A "WI" next to a course in this catalog may indicate that this course can fulfill a writing-intensive requirement. For the most up-to-date list of writing-intensive courses being offered, students should check the Writing Intensive Course List (<http://drexel.edu/coas/academics/departments-centers/english-philosophy/university-writing-program/writing-intensive-courses/>) at the University Writing Program (<http://drexel.edu/coas/academics/departments-centers/english-philosophy/university-writing-program/>). (<http://drexel.edu/coas/academics/departments-centers/english-philosophy/university-writing-program/drexel-writing-center/>) Students scheduling their courses can also conduct a search for courses with the attribute "WI" to bring up a list of all writing-intensive courses available that term.

## Co-op and Career Services

Students in the program have the option of two co-op cycles: one is a 5-year program with 3 co-op cycles (5COP), and the second option is 4-year program with one co-op cycle (4COP). Students will meet with their career services adviser during their time in the program to closely match career objectives with curriculum design and co-op/research opportunities.

# Minor in Interdisciplinary Problem Solving

## About the Minor

The 21st century will be defined by the complexity and interconnected nature of human endeavors. The challenges of this interconnected world are vast and they will require problem-solvers who are both specialized and capable of working across many fields of knowledge. The Interdisciplinary Problem Solving minor provides students across the University the opportunity to develop applied problem-solving skills

to meet these challenges. The focus of the minor is to help students integrate information, methods of inquiry, research skills, and experiential learning across multiple fields of knowledge. Students will be encouraged to draw from their major field of study while also exploring other fields related to addressing complex, real-world problems. The minor will also encourage experimentation and synthesis while students engage with models of interdisciplinary research.

## Admission Requirements

The Interdisciplinary Problem Solving minor is open to all University students that meet the criteria for acceptance. Students **do not** need to be a member of the Honors program to take part in the minor. (Symposium courses are open to all Drexel students.) Because of the nature of the minor, success is dependent upon students showing self-discipline and being highly motivated and self-reliant. All applications for the minor will be submitted to the director of the minor.

The following are the requirements that students must meet to be considered:

- Required essay: Student statement of interest and desired goals
- Required recommendation: One letter of recommendation from faculty that speaks to the student's ability to be collegial and collaborative, exhibit initiative and resourcefulness, and the ability to work independently.

## Program Requirements

Required Courses		
CSDN 210	Methods of Interdisciplinary Inquiry	3.0
CSDN 220	Integrative Research Methods	3.0
HNRS 302	Honors Colloquium (Take two times)	6.0
<b>Electives *</b>		<b>12.0</b>
Students choose 12 credits of electives; suggested courses include the following:		
BIO 264	Ethnobotany	
BMES 101	Introduction to BMES Design I: Defining Medical Problems	
BMES 102	Introduction to BMES Design II: Evaluating Design Solutions	
BMES 124	Biomedical Engineering Freshman Seminar I	
BUSN 103	Advanced First Year Business Seminar	
CAEE 202	Introduction to Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering	
CIVE 240 [WI]	Engineering Economic Analysis	
COM 111	Principles of Communication	
COM 220	Qualitative Research Methods	
COM 317 [WI]	Environmental Communication	
ENVS 260	Environmental Science and Society	
INFO 101	Introduction to Computing and Security Technology	
INFO 102	Introduction to Information Systems	
INFO 103	Introduction to Data Science	
INTR 310	Sustainability: History, Theory and Critic	
MGMT 260	Introduction to Entrepreneurship	
MGMT 364	Technology Management	
MIS 200	Management Information Systems	
PROD 215	Design Thinking in Product Design	
PSY 352	Psychology of Sustainability	
SOC 341	Global Environmental Movements	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>24.0</b>

\* Other courses may be substituted with the approval of the minor director.

## Writing-Intensive Course Requirements

In order to graduate, all students must pass three writing-intensive courses after their freshman year. Two writing-intensive courses must be in a student's major. The third can be in any discipline. Students are advised to take one writing-intensive class each year, beginning with the sophomore year, and to avoid "clustering" these courses near the end of their matriculation. Transfer students need to meet with an academic advisor to review the number of writing-intensive courses required to graduate.

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## Additional Information

Please contact Dr. Kevin D. Egan at [kde25@drexel.edu](mailto:kde25@drexel.edu) with questions concerning the minor.

# Index

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## C

Custom-Designed Major ..... 2

## M

Minor in Interdisciplinary Problem Solving ..... 3

## T

The Pennoni Honors College ..... 2