

Proposal for Individualized Major

B.A. Individualized Major in Community Administration

I chose an Individualized Major because UofL did not have a set program that fulfilled all the areas I want to learn from and experience. I am seeking a more interdisciplinary approach to administration that focuses on the culturally diverse community we live in. The only curriculum that resembles the type of program I am seeking is the university's Master's in Public Administration, which isn't quite within my reach, yet. Fortunately, I was introduced to the Liberal Studies program by one of my JCTC advisors. An Individualized Major will allow me to mold the curriculum so that it meets my academic needs.

I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and moved to Morelia, Mexico at age nine with my parents and my brother. I lived in Morelia until age eighteen, after graduating high school I moved to Louisville to start my college education. My sister was already living in Louisville making the transition of leaving my family and starting college life a lot easier.

Because I lived my life in two very different places, I got to experience the contrast of plenty cultural, sociopolitical and economic differences. I consider myself lucky to experience all these different settings. It has given me a solid understanding of intersectionality and the value it carries in society. My degree and my career goals are inspired by intercultural experiences, by all the struggles and inequalities I experienced or saw others experience since I was very young.

The title I have chosen for my personalized curriculum is "Community Administration". The areas of concentration include Sociology as the approved A&S minor, Political Science, Management and Economics. The goal behind integrating these different subjects is to prepare

myself for leadership positions in the non-profit or government sector and contribute to erase inequalities among our incredibly diverse community. This degree brings together a unique set of intercultural experiences, human relations and management skills to better manage public and nonprofit organizations.

My curriculum integrates Sociology as the A&S minor. This offers me the opportunity to study social groups, cultures, institutions, and behaviors, gaining a greater understanding of human society; crucial to understand oneself and the ones around you. Political Science is my second concentration. Having a Political Science focus helps me gain knowledge of political institutions and of the laws that govern us. This will sharpen my understanding of organizational dynamics and human relations at both a national and international level. As I grow in my career, I envision myself to be in a leadership position thus Management seemed fit as a third concentration. Management will help me gain an understanding on different approaches to leadership and how to successfully motivate, train, communicate, develop, and work well with others. As a fourth concentration I have chosen Economics. Economics will provide me with the necessary knowledge through tools and theories, as well as models to predict behaviors and adequately adapt strategies. This will become essential for future decisions in administration. Sociology, Political Science, Management and Economics compose the ideal curriculum for someone like me who seeks a deeper understanding of my community through an interdisciplinary approach to Administration that better fits my personal and professional goals.

Ideally, I wish to be part of an organization that supports our immigrant and refugee populations by providing the necessary tools they need to navigate and eventually thrive in our community. That could be from being an ESL instructor/tutor, working in a university's International Department, a government position in the Office of Globalization, a member of a

non-profit organization like Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Americana Community Center, or Catholic Charities of Louisville. I understand how much an internship with any of these organizations or departments would deeply enrich my undergraduate experience, therefore I do intend to include one as part of my educational experience in my last semester. I believe that opportunities are endless and my personal experiences along with my Community Administration degree will prepare me for any of them.