Spotlight on BA in Ad Hoc Major

**What is the Ad Hoc Major?**

When students’ educational objectives cannot be fully attained solely by study within an existing department, program, or school, they are given the option of devising an ad hoc pattern of courses in an area of concentration of their own choosing. A student may embark upon an arts and sciences ad hoc major following preparation and formal acceptance of a proposal outlining the area of study, the desired outcomes, and the educational values of the program.

The arts and sciences ad hoc major is a student-designed course of study offered by Weissman Arts and Sciences. **In one of the ad hoc options:** students create this major by combining courses from two or more departments into an integrated field of study with a clear liberal arts focus. The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences ad hoc major requires a minimum of 30 credits, with at least 24 liberal arts credits. The major must contain courses from at least two different Weissman departments, with a minimum of three courses (9-12 credits) from each of those departments. A maximum of three non-liberal arts courses may be included in an ad hoc major to provide support and/or supplementation to a strong liberal arts concept. No more than three courses from the Zicklin School of Business (3000 level and above) may be used in the ad hoc major. Students interested in including business courses in their ad hoc major should refer to the following website for the list of courses approved for use: [www.baruch.cuny.edu/wsas/studentresources/declaremajoradhoc.htm](http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/wsas/studentresources/declaremajoradhoc.htm). Students are required to attend an ad hoc workshop led by Dr. Wendy Heyman, Arts & Sciences Coordinator in the Starr Career Development Center.

**Other Ad Hoc Options and Occupational Opportunities**

- **The Arts: Art, Theatre, and Arts Administration**, contact the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at 646 312 4052.
- **Asian and Asian American Studies**, contact the History Department at 646 312 4310.
- **Modern Languages and Comparative Literature**, contact the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature at 646 312 4210.
- **Natural Sciences**, contact the Department of Natural Sciences at 646 660 6200 or go to faculty.baruch.cuny.edu/jwahlert.
- **Religion and Culture**, contact Professor Michael Plekon, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at 646 312 4472 or by e-mail at michael.plekon@baruch.cuny.edu.

**Skills & Abilities**

The skills and abilities one learns creating a major can apply to any career where "thinking outside the box", integrating disciplines and being a self-starter are valued. Personal characteristics of ad hoc majors typically include excellent communications skills, creative thinking, curiosity, self-motivation and perseverance.

- Thinks Creatively
- Listens Actively
- Develops a world view
- Sees Relationships between factors
- Influences and Persuades
- Synthesizes information
- Communicates clearly
- Assesses needs
- Generates Solutions

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**Career Options**

- Advertising Executive
- Art Coordinator
- Attorney
- Business Manager
- Chief Executive Officer
- Community Affairs Director
- Community Organizer
- Dentist
- Editor
- Event Planner
- Foreign Service Officer
- Government Administrator
- Graphic Designer
- Human Resource Manager
- Intelligence Officer
- Legislative Aide/Analyst
- Physician
- Professor
- Psychologist
- Public Relations Coordinator
- Researcher
- Sales Associate
- Teacher
- Theologian
- Translator
- Urban Planner
- Writer
Career Snapshot: Chief Executive Officer

Chief Executive Officers have a broad range of interdisciplinary skills, lead and inspire others and have excellent emotional intelligence. They have a vision, are flexible, can take charge and can hire people to fill-in to meet organizational needs. They work in every industry and earn high salaries.

Career Snapshot: Arts Manager

Combines a career in business and nonprofit arts sector working in a variety of settings including art organizations, technology and multimedia endeavors, museums, theatre and/or government such as public policy and cultural affairs departments. They have an appreciation for the arts and art management skills which can be used to address compelling civic concerns, sensitively liaison between artists and various institutions and ability to think creatively, fundraise, plan events, and/or to communicate to a variety of constituents.

Additional Resources

- U.S. Government’s Occupational Outlook Handbook
  http://bls.gov/oco

- The Modern Language Association of America
  www.mla.org

- Make the Difference
  www.makingthedifference.org/federalcareers

- American Management Association
  www.amanet.org

- American Medical Association
  www.ama-assn.org

- Media Bistro
  http://www.mediabistro.com

- Idealist
  www.idealist.org

- Environmental Career Organization
  www.eco.org