

WILLIAMS COLLEGE

FACULTY SPONSORSHIP ENDORSEMENT AND EVALUATION  
FOR CONTRACT MAJOR

INSTRUCTIONS

Before answering the questions below, please review the description of contract majors in the College Handbook. In particular, please keep in mind the following passages from the Bulletin.

- “Students with the talent and energy for working independently and with the strong support of two faculty sponsors may undertake a contract major”
- “Such a major must be in an area suitable to the talents of the faculty in residence and and cannot consist of minor modifications to an existing major.”
- “It must embody a disciplined cumulative study that moves from an elementary to an advanced level and culminates in a synthesis similar to a senior major course.”
- Faculty sponsors must be willing to “endorse the contract major and *undertake a central role in supervising its implementation, criticism, evaluation, and ultimate validation.*” ‡

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PLEASE RESPOND TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING

1. How well do you know this student? What opportunities have you had to observe him or her in an academic context?
2. Having read the student’s contract major application, how would you evaluate the intellectual coherence and feasibility of the proposed major? Does the proposed major seem to satisfy the guidelines for contract majors?
3. Evaluate the potential of this student to complete the proposed contract major.

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‡ Italics not added.