# Customizable Option

The customizable option is for students who have well-defined educational goals and distinctive career aspirations that do not fit easily within the other pre-determined options. The customizable option allows students to have a transcript visible program of upper division courses that are tailored to their particular interests and professional objectives. A customized option does not alter any of the other course and degree requirements within the Botany major. Like other options, the customizable option courses are filed under MyDegrees and constitute a contract between the student and the department toward finishing the BOT degree.

To create a customized option, the student must do the following:

1. Define career goals and objectives
2. Articulate a custom option title that briefly encompasses those professional goals
3. Work with the botany advisor to create a program of courses for the option. The course program must meet all of these criteria:
   * minimum of 21 credit hours, at least 15 being upper division
   * all program courses must be taken for a grade (no S/U)
   * courses may not double count with the BOT degree core requirements except for a WIC course or an “additional quantitative skills” course
   * a maximum of 3 credit hours of experiential learning units may be applied
   * up to 9 transfer credits may be applied with advisor approval
4. Plan how the courses will be scheduled, so that the option can be completed in a timely way. Remember that some courses are offered on an alternate year basis.
5. Write a one-page proposal that describes the career goals and outlines how each course in the program will relate to those goals.
6. Fill out a Customized Option form (reverse side of this document) and submit it to your advisor along with your proposal. The advisor will review the plan and either approve it or make recommendations for revision.
7. When the plan is approved (signed), the document is given to the Lead Advisor for Botany & Plant Pathology. The Lead Advisor will submit the course program to MyDegrees. The Custom Option courses will appear below the Major Block under “student program of study”. The Lead Advisor will also ensure that the signed Customized Option form and student’s one-page proposal are uploaded to the student’s university records.
8. The Custom Option plan is locked, but can be modified if necessary, in consultation with your advisor.

**Customizable Option Form**

# Student Name: Student ID #: Student Signature:

**Career goals & objectives (briefly):**

**Custom Option Title** (should encompass or relate to student’s professional goals):

**Requirements**: To create a customized option, the student must define individual educational objectives and careers goals and then work with a Botany advisor to create an appropriate program of courses for the option. That course program must meet all of the following criteria:

1. minimum of 21 credit hours, at least 15 being upper division
2. all program courses must be taken for a grade (no S/U)
3. courses may not double count with the BOT degree core requirements except for a WIC course or an “additional quantitative skills” course
4. a maximum of 3 credit hours of experiential learning units may be applied
5. up to 9 transfer credits may be applied with advisor approval

# Course of Study:

**Course Number/Name Credits Term/Year when course will be taken\***

TOTAL:

Advisor approval (signature):\_ Date

\* Confirm with course instructors or the department to ensure that courses will be offered as anticipated; some courses are offered only during alternate years.