The following guidelines will help you determine what can be included in your Concentration:

1. All courses must be relevant to the topic you have selected. The Concentration should be a selection of courses directly relevant to the topic, not an assortment of unrelated courses that you simply want to take. Your academic advisor must approve courses for their relevance to the Concentration topic.

2. For the BSIS, three science courses and a Statistics course are required in the Concentration.

3. At least three different disciplines must be incorporated in the Concentration. In practical terms, this means that we will consider courses as being from distinct disciplines if they have different prefixes. For example, in SOC 3302 the discipline is Sociology and in BIO 3310 the discipline is Biology. Even though each IS course includes perspectives from more than one discipline, for purposes of the three discipline requirement we will count IS as if it were one discipline. (BA and ACCT count as a single prefix.)

4. 20 hour rule - No more than 20 hours in a specific subject can be included in the combined courses of the Foundations, the Concentration and the Advanced Electives.

You may change your Concentration after you declare it. However, as with the Foundations, if the change comes late in your course work, it may be difficult to shift courses that you have taken for your original Concentration topic to other parts of the degree plan.

The Concentration is the most creative and unique part of the IS degree and you should plan it carefully. To aid you in devising a Concentration, some sample Concentrations are presented below. Although you are welcome to choose one of the illustrative topics as your own, you (in consultation with your academic advisor) must assume responsibility for developing the actual list of courses that will comprise the content of your Concentration. As a way to help you and your academic advisor pinpoint your interests, you might make a list of any courses in the UTD catalog that appeal to you and use this list as a guide to finding a topic.

Although only 18 hours are required in the Concentration, each of these examples lists more than 18. It is wise to choose a Concentration topic in which UTD offers more than 18 hours, since some of the relevant courses may not be offered at times you can take them during your stay at UTD. Since there is likely to be only a limited number of courses offered on each Concentration topic, you should avoid waiting until late in the degree to begin taking courses in the Concentration. As a rule, it is best to take at least one course in your Concentration every semester after your first semester. It is also recommended that your Concentration include an Internship which is explained in more detail in a later section.

Note: Each semester Special Topics courses are offered in every discipline, including Interdisciplinary Studies. These are not described in the catalog, but may include topics that will pertain to a Concentration.