

**CONCENTRATION:** The Concentration consists of 18 hours of courses and is the IS student's opportunity to specialize in an area. Together with your academic Advisor, you will design your Concentration to suit your particular interests. Any topic is suitable for a Concentration, as long as UTD offers enough courses on the topic and the courses span at least three disciplines. You should decide on a title for your Concentration as early as possible and have your Advisor put this title on your degree plan. 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 Advisor must approve courses for their relevance to the Concentration topic.

2. For the BSIS, three science courses and a Statistics course must be present in the Concentration.

3. At least three different disciplines must be represented 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 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 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.

### **MOST OFTEN USED CONCENTRATIONS**

Below is a list of Concentration areas that was compiled from degree plans for graduating Interdisciplinary Studies students. This is a list of the most often used Concentrations and is designed for guidance only. Other Concentrations have been developed by conscientious Interdisciplinary Studies students. Some of the courses in each sample Concentration require prerequisite courses. Before deciding to select a course, refer to the catalog for the description and whether or not prerequisites are required.

#### Examples of Concentrations:

Environmental Studies

Pre-Medicine

#### **PRE-MEDICINE**

BIOL 3301 & BIOL 3101 Classical and Molecular Genetics

BIOL 3302 & BIOL 3102 Eukaryotic Molecular and Cell Biology

BIOL 3361 & BIOL 3161 Biochemistry I

BIOL 3362 & BIOL 3162	Biochemistry II
BIOL 3455	Anatomy and Physiology I
BIOL 3456	Anatomy and Physiology II
ECO 3330	The Economics of Health
GOVT 4365	Law and Medicine
ISGS 4306	Human Female: Biology and Culture
ISGS 4308	Bones, Bodies and Disease
PHYSICS 1302 (lower level)	Physics II
PSY 4328	Health Psychology
STAT 3360	Probability and Statistics
SOC 4372	Health and Illness

### **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

ECO 4333	Environmental Economics
GEOS 3310	Environmental Geology
GEOS 3317	Water Resources of the Southwest
GEOS 3320	Geology, Resources and the Environment of Africa
GEOS 3321	Geology, Resources, and the Environment of Latin America
GEOS 3350	Global Change
GEOS 3421	Stratigraphy and Sedimentology
GEOS 3470	Structural Geology
GEOS 4310	Hydrogeology
ISSS 3349	World Resources and Development
PA 3310	Public Administration
PA 4345	Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
PA 4360	Ethics in Public Administration
SOCS 3305 & SOCS 3105	Introduction to Social Statistics

**Please note: There is no minor available in Interdisciplinary Studies.**