**CONCENTRATION**

The Concentration consists of 18 hours of courses and is the 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 UT Dallas 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 academic 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 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. At least three different disciplines are required in the Concentration. For the Concentration, we will consider courses as being from distinct disciplines if they have different prefixes (for example, the prefix SOC is a sociology discipline and the prefix BIOL is a biology discipline), with one exception: any and all courses from the School of Management are considered one discipline/prefix. Management course prefixes are: ACCT, BA, BCOM, BLAW, BPS, ENTP, FIN, HMGT, IMS, MIS, MKT, OBHR, OPRE, and REAL. 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.

3. 20 hour rule - No more than 21 upper-division 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 these Concentrations, you and your academic advisor can work together to create a unique
Concentration geared towards your specific goals and interests. With the guidance of your academic advisor, keep in mind that you are responsible 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 UT Dallas 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 UT Dallas offers more than 18 hours, since some of the relevant courses may not be offered during the times or as frequently as you need. 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.

For all Concentrations, an internship (BIS 4V04) may be incorporated as long as it is relevant to the Concentration.

Note: Each semester Special Topics courses are offered in every discipline, including Interdisciplinary Studies. Please refer to the course schedule for the topics offered that particular semester. 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 compiled from previous degree plans of Interdisciplinary Studies students. This is a list of the most often used Concentrations chosen; however, you can construct your own Concentration with the guidance of your academic advisor. Some of the courses in each sample Concentration may require prerequisites or co-requisites.

**Examples of Concentrations:**
- Arts Administration and Management
- Business Communication
- Business Issues
- Communications
- Counseling
Diversity
Environmental Studies
Health and Wellness
Human Resources
International Relations
Law
Management Information Systems
Public Relations
Teaching Issues (courses included here will vary with level of certification.)
Technology and Management
Urban Studies
Women's Studies