

IAS Individualized Study (IS) Degree Option

Overview

The IS degree option is designed for highly-motivated students who want to create their own course of study. IS students work closely with one or more faculty mentors in IAS or at UWB as they shape a degree suited to their individual interests and professional ambitions.

If you are interested in the IS degree option, you should begin by obtaining the agreement of an IAS faculty member to serve as your mentor. You will consult with your mentor on drafting a Statement of Intent describing the goals of the Individualized Study.

Application

Students should normally apply in their junior year and have completed at least one quarter of coursework in IAS, including BIS 300. An application consists of:

- A cover sheet with the signatures of the student and faculty mentor(s), and the title of the proposed Individualized Study
- A résumé
- A current transcript
- A Statement of Intent including:
 - A 2-3 page description and rationale of the individualized course of study and its learning goals. The rationale should link these goals to the four core IAS learning objectives. (Please see more explanation below.)
 - A provisional plan of coursework to be taken including:
 - At least forty credits of IAS coursework, including three two-credit Portfolio Reflection courses.
 - A senior seminar (or other capstone course)
 - A short statement of your motivations and capacities to pursue independent work, making reference to the résumé and transcript.

The forty credits of IAS coursework may include independent study and internships. You may request that courses in other UWB programs be included or courses elsewhere in the UW system. (The latter are subject to standard UWB residency requirements: 45 of the last 60 credits need to be completed at the UWB campus.)

At the time of application at least 30 of the planned credits, plus the senior seminar, should be courses that you have not yet completed.

Given that it is difficult to anticipate course offerings more than a year in advance, we stress that the proposed plan is *provisional*, and may be revised, with the mentor's consent, as the Individualized Study proceeds. You and your mentor are urged to build in flexibility and not to make the plan contingent on seldom-offered courses. Your faculty mentor can help you to identify courses that are likely to be offered.

Your application will be considered accepted (and thus your enrollment in the option approved) once your proposal has been approved by a committee of faculty mentors and the cover sheet signed by your faculty mentor, the IAS faculty convenor for the IS degree option, and an IAS

program advisor. Substantial revisions of the proposed course of study will also require these approvals. Depending on demand, enrollment in the IS degree option may be capped.

Graduation Requirements (minimum)

BIS 300 (Interdisciplinary Inquiry)	5 credits
Courses in the Individualized Study option	40 credits
Additional IAS courses	20 credits
General Electives	20 credits
Senior Seminar (or other capstone)	5 credits
<i>Total</i>	<i>90 credits</i>

Standard UW and IAS degree requirements apply, including areas of knowledge, with a total of 180 credits required for graduation.

Advising and the Portfolio

As a student earning an Individualized Studies degree, you will be required to enroll at least three times in a two-credit Portfolio Reflection course. This course provides a space for you to consult with your faculty mentor and others enrolled in the course as you complete a portfolio assessment. You will need to pass this course a minimum of three times as you complete your degree: once at the start, once in the middle, and once at the end. You may enroll in it as many as five times.

The portfolio is additive. Over time, it will grow to include all of the major assignments you complete in the program, including papers, projects, performances, presentations, exams, and your previous self-assessments. The portfolio and the course-based self-assessment process are intended to make you aware of your progress as you move through your Individualized Study degree option so that you can work with your faculty mentor to make needed changes along the way and complete your degree with solid measurement of your accomplishments and skills.

The process begins when you work with your faculty mentor to create a Statement of Intent, describing the planned course of study and the learning objectives your plan aims to accomplish. These learning objectives should complement and, if appropriate, expand on the core objectives in IAS: critical thinking, collaboration and shared leadership, interdisciplinary research, and writing and presentation.

The Individualized Studies portfolio process enriches the standard, program-wide IAS portfolio requirement. Not all courses will explicitly use a portfolio system, but you should make sure you retrieve all assignments and include them in your portfolio. (Non-standard assignments may take an extra effort to retain, but they can be extremely valuable. If you are given the option to have Campus Media videotape your performance, make sure you request a taped or digital copy. If you complete a group poster or installation, take a digital photo of it.)

In addition to the three iterations of the 2-credit course, you and your faculty mentor will consult quarterly about the process of portfolio construction and assessment. These assessments will be reviewed by a larger committee of IS faculty mentors. This committee may also have feedback for you and/or require revisions. These requests and/or requirements will be conveyed to you by your mentor.