

## **INFORMATION FOR FACULTY AND DEPARTMENTAL ADVISORS**

### **BACHELOR OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES (BIS)**

The Bachelor of Individualized Studies is one of two bachelor's degree programs offered by the College of Liberal Arts allowing students to tailor their undergraduate programs to their academic and life goals. (The other program is the Individually Designed Interdepartmental Major for the BA degree.) Students initially work with a BIS adviser to develop an application that consists of a list of proposed courses and a written statement explaining the student's academic goals and demonstrating how the proposed courses will enable the student to meet those goals.

#### **Program Design**

Courses in the student's BIS program are grouped into 3 areas of concentration; one of these areas may be from outside CLA and students may have up to 21 credits outside of CLA in their program. A concentration area may consist of either courses from within one department (e.g., philosophy courses focused on ethical, political, and social issues) or from more than one department (e.g., an interdisciplinary concentration titled "Film History" with courses from the Art History, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies and French departments). The concentration titles will appear on the student's transcript once the degree has been conferred. Integration of the three concentration areas is not required in BIS programs. Each area must include at least 15 semester credits of closely related courses at the 3/5xxx-level that will enable the student to achieve focus and depth in that area. A total of 50 semester credits at the 3/5xxx-level is required in the BIS program.

Students select courses by becoming familiar with departmental offerings in the undergraduate catalog, by consulting with their BIS adviser, and by consulting with faculty or advisers within individual departments. Some departments or colleges require that one or more core courses be included in an area of concentration; information regarding these prerequisites is available to students from the BIS advisers.

#### **Program Review and Approval Process**

After the content and presentation of the proposal are approved by the BIS advisers as meeting program standards, the proposal is reviewed by the BIS Proposal Review Committee, which meets once a semester. After the committee grants preliminary approval, the proposal is then reviewed and endorsed by advisers for each area of concentration. While some departments have designated one faculty member or professional adviser to review all BIS proposals, other departments prefer that referrals to faculty be made according to the interests of the student and the specific focus of the area of concentration. Students with interdepartmental areas of concentration are referred to faculty advisers with related interests and academic work.

Please contact the BIS advisers (612/624-8006) if you have any questions about the BIS program, especially concerning the role of departmental advisers at the various stages of the planning, approval and degree completion process.

#### **CLA Individualized Degree Programs**

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