

Elliott School of International Affairs

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Guidelines & Application for Creating an Individualized Concentration

Elliott School students with a major in International Affairs have the option to apply to create an individualized concentration. Please read the below guidelines if you are considering this option:

- Your proposed concentration should not be similar to any of the existing concentrations.
- Your proposed concentration should not be a combination of any of the existing concentrations.
- Your proposed concentration must consist of five courses and total fifteen credits.
- Your proposed concentration must consist of courses from at least two different academic departments.
- Your proposed concentration should be supported by your academic interests and goals.
- You cannot double count courses between this concentration and other Elliott School requirements.
- You must be in good academic standing when you submit your application (a 2.0 GPA or above).
- You must submit your request by the end of your sophomore/second year.
- If your application is approved, your concentration will appear as “Specialized Program” and will **not** list your created title; however, you can list your created title on your resume.
- If your application is approved, you must take the courses you included in your application; if your plans change, you must seek approval from your faculty and academic advisor – failing to do so could result in not completing a concentration and therefore not graduating.

A complete application consists of the following materials, which must be submitted together via email to your assigned academic advisor or to the Elliott School Office of Undergraduate Academic Advising at advising@gwu.edu **by the end of your sophomore/second year.**

Required Application Materials

1) Completed application form (see pages 2-3 of this document) to include:

- Title of proposed concentration
- List of eight courses (five required for concentration + three alternatives) to include subject, number and title (i.e. IAFF 3186: Development Issues in Southeast Asia)
- Signature from a faculty member supporting your proposed concentration

2) Copies of syllabi for all eight courses

3) Individualized concentration proposal

Write a maximum of one page, double-spaced describing your proposed concentration and how it is aligned with your academic goals and interests. You should explain why one of the existing concentrations does not support your academic goals.

4) Letter of support from faculty member

You must have the support of a faculty member whose area of expertise can help guide you through the process of creating an individualized concentration. The faculty member does not have to be Elliott School faculty. The faculty member must sign the Application Cover Sheet and provide a short (one paragraph is fine) letter of support for your application.

5) Unofficial Transcript

Available from the [Registrar](#) or you can print it from [GWeb](#).

Application for Creating an Individualized Concentration

Submit application and all required materials to the Elliott School Office of Academic Advising (1957 E Street, NW, Suite 302) by the end of your sophomore/second year.

If you are abroad, you should email the application to your assigned academic advisor.

Name: _____

GWid: _____

GW Email: _____

Faculty Name: _____

Department: _____

Signature: _____

Title of Proposed Concentration: _____

Proposed Courses:

	Course Subject	Course Number	Course Title
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Alternate Courses:

	Course Subject	Course Number	Course Title
6			
7			
8			

Please check off these boxes to confirm that all required materials are enclosed/attached:

- Copies of syllabi for all eight courses
- Individualized concentration proposal
- Letter of support from faculty member
- Unofficial transcript

Student signature: _____ **Date:** _____

OFFICIAL USE ONLY:	
Approved	Denied
BA/BSIA PD Sig: _____ Date: _____	
Comments/Reason for Denial:	