**Type Concentration Title Here**

By (Student’s Name)

Proposed (Semester, Year)

***YOU ARE EXPECTED TO USE THIS TEMPLATE FOR YOUR APPLICATION***

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<tr>
<th>Banner ID:</th>
<th>Graduation Year:</th>
<th>Semester Level:</th>
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<tr>
<td>B________</td>
<td>20___</td>
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Email:

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<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Is this a revision of a proposal submitted earlier?</th>
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<tr>
<td>A.B. or Sc.B.</td>
<td>(Yes/No)</td>
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<th>Will this concentration replace one previously declared</th>
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<td>If, yes, which?</td>
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<th>Will it be in addition to one previously declared</th>
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<td>If, yes, which?</td>
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<tr>
<th>Faculty Sponsor:</th>
<th>Sponsor’s Department:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Sponsor’s Title:</th>
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<td>(Must be above the rank of Instructor or Lecturer)</td>
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**Cocktail Party Description of the IC:**

(Provide a 1-2 sentence description of the concentration’s focus in simple, jargon-free language. This is a challenging exercise to be specific, clear, and concise in describing your intellectual project. Please consider it carefully and run it by people to ensure it is accessible!)

The Curricular Resource Center maintains an archive of approved IC proposals to allow prospective ICers to get a sense of past work. Proposals are made available upon your graduation. “X” here if you DO NOT want your IC proposal to be made available in the IC archive upon graduation.

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<th>Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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(Concentration Title)
An Independent Concentration by (Student Name), Class of (20__)
Independent Concentration (IC) | Proposal Outline

Before submitting this proposal, please consult the IC Website, attend the IC Coordinators’ open hours at the Curricular Resource Center (CRC website), and look through the archive of approved IC proposals at the IC Database.

Applicants must submit their first IC proposal by the end of their 5th semester. All proposals must receive FINAL, full approval by the end of their 6th semesters. Proposals are only reviewed three times per semester on select dates.

Applicants must meet with the coordinators prior to submitting their proposal. This should be done well in advance of the first submission to allow time for thoughtful revisions.

The word limits are generally suggestions, but please consult regularly with the IC Coordinators to ensure you are on track in terms of your writing. This rubric for evaluating IC proposals is here. Please note the spelling, grammar, and coherence of the writing in the proposal is important and should be carefully reviewed before submitting.

Email your completed application to independent_concentrations@brown.edu.

1. **Cover Letter/Overview** - Provide a summary of the proposed field’s key questions/debates, its reason for existing as an IC at Brown, and a very brief summary of why you are proposing it. ~300 words
   
   **NOTE:** If you are resubmitting with revisions, please additionally provide a summary of the specific changes you have made

   (Please type your answer here)

2. **Learning Goals** - Provide a clear description of the proposed concentration’s academic goals and trajectory, reflecting on what skills a concentrator in this field would learn. ~250 words
   
   • Think of this like the “Description” paragraph you see describing traditional concentrations on Focal Point. You can also find examples of learning objectives for every concentration listed.

   (Please type your answer here)

3. **What** - Describe the context of the concentration outside of Brown and define key terms ~500-750 words
   
   • If the concentration exists at other undergraduate liberal arts institutions comparable to Brown, describe the similarities and differences between the IC and those programs. Consider reaching out to members of those programs for details.
   
   • If the concentration does not exist elsewhere but is a clearly established field of study, describe the state of...
the field, bring in resources from active scholars, and discuss how your concentration will connect with the larger field. Consider consulting leading journal or contacting some of the relevant scholars for guidance.

• If the concentration does not (yet) exist as a field of study, provide a very compelling description of its necessity, relevance, and academic merit.

(Please type your answer here)

4. How - Discuss the scholarly methods to be used, the connections with any related disciplines, and how you plan to combine those disciplines using resources at Brown. **500-750 words**

• Outline the analytic research methods or forms of inquiry of the concentration, highlighting the role of the methods course(s) in your course plan. These should come from and work with your methods course(s) and involve the practical tool for interacting with the information in your field (quantitative, qualitative, creative, etc.)

• Describe the connections with other academic fields, including how courses, texts, and techniques from other disciplines at Brown will be used to complete this concentration.

**NOTE:** If you are interested in participating in the Engaged Scholars Program as an independent concentrator, please include an additional description of your interest in the program and how it will relate to your proposed concentration.

(Please type your answer here)

5. Why – Provide a personal statement of justification for doing this concentration and an explanation of why the curriculum could not be pursued in a standard concentration at Brown. **1000 words**

• Include a brief statement of personal interest in this topic and how you came to declare this IC.

• If the IC is similar to any other concentration(s), describe their differences - which should be significant enough to merit the creation of a new concentration. Why is this path necessary?

• Please refer explicitly to the existing concentrations as they appear on the University Bulletin, which changes frequently! Be sure to reference standard concentrations accurately and mention advising conversations you have had with other advisors from those programs.

• Read and consider various educational philosophies, including the Liberal Learning Goals and the philosophy outlined in “Draft of a Working Paper for Education at Brown University”. Describe which educational goals the IC fulfills and how it will do so.

(Please type your answer here)

6. Courses - List the courses required for the concentration.

• AB concentrations should include **about 11 Core Courses**, including **1 methods course**, and **1 departmental**
**independent study course (DISP) for your capstone** (students who wish to complete a thesis or and Sc.B. capstone will have a minimum of 12 courses, as 2 DISPs are required). Most ScB concentrations include **about 17 Core Courses**.

- The course list should include a mix of introductory, intermediate, and advanced courses, logically building on earlier knowledge essential to completing capstone-like work. Adapt the “categories” column to best explain the flow and relationship between courses.
- Consider the knowledge and skills that are integral to the field. You may find it useful to list as alternative courses that accomplish similar intellectual goals (For example, if you plan to take 2 from a list of 5 courses).
- The methods course should provide the tools to comprehend, conduct, and report on research in your field (critical for you capstone/thesis). It may be qualitative, quantitative, theoretical, creative, practical, etc. and more than one course may be required depending on your field.
- Specify the [Writing Requirement course](#) you intend to take as a junior or senior.

**NOTE:** If you wish to join the Engaged Scholars Program, remember to list 2 [Engaged Courses](#), the .5 credit ESP reflection seminar or equivalent, and your practicum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stud. Sem.</th>
<th>Acad. Sem, Yr</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>(1-8)</td>
<td>(i.e. Fall 2014)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(i.e. Intro, Advanced, Methods, etc.)</td>
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(Tab to enter new rows)

**7. Courses Annotations**- Describe how each of the courses supports the concentration ~2-3 sentences each

- Divide this section into categories that demonstrate the logical progression of the courses.
- Describe how each will contribute to the concentration’s depth as well as breadth, relating the academic material to the concentration’s field and **learning objectives**.
- Consider including a diagram (flow chart, Venn diagram, etc.) of courses to illustrate the coherence of the IC.

(Please type your answer here)

**8. Capstone/Thesis Concept** - Outline the culminating project for the concentration ~250 words

- All ICs must include a final project to tie together the knowledge and skills of the concentration. Describe the format, content, and methodologies of the intended Capstone or Honors Thesis (details on the [IC Info Sheet](#) and the [Thesis Guidelines](#)).
- For sophomores, this should be a rough outline of what the final project might entail. Juniors should have a clearer idea of what specific questions the Capstone or Thesis will investigate and the resources necessary.

Last Updated 2/26/18 3:46 PM
9. **Annotated Bibliography** - Provide an annotated list of scholarly works that are relevant to the concentration and support the contents of your proposal. **At least 10 works, 1-2 sentences each**

- Works should be either central to the concentration or necessary to fully understand its existence. **Describe how each relates to the concentration. Do not simply provide a generic summary.**

10. **Faculty Sponsor Letter** - Attach a letter of support from the Faculty Sponsor

- The **Faculty Sponsor Info Sheet**, including the instructions for this letter, can be found on the CRC’s website.