

CHOOSING A CONCENTRATION

AS AN INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT BROWN

WHAT IS A CONCENTRATION?

A concentration is an in-depth study centering on a discipline or disciplines, a problem or theme, or a broad question.

Students typically declare a concentration before pre-registering for their fifth semester.

The process of declaring a concentration is no different for international students.

However, international students on an F-1 visa who want to pursue off-campus employment should keep in mind how work authorization may be impacted by concentration declaration.

CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)

Key requirements: F-1 status; enrolled as a full time student for at least two semesters; **declared concentration**; offer of employment

Connection to concentration:

Per U.S. immigration regulations, CPT is authorized off-campus employment which is "**an integral or required part of your curriculum and course of study.**"

At Brown, there are **two CPT tracks** meant to demonstrate the employment's connection to the curriculum.

* PROFESSIONAL TRACK

The professional track includes concentrations that **require internships as part of the curriculum:**

- Applied Math, Applied Math Bio, Applied Math Econ.
- Computer Science (CS), CS Econ.
- Economics (including Business Econ.)
- Engineering

After your internship, you complete a reflection in ASK.

* NON-PROFESSIONAL TRACK

For concentrations without professional tracks, students must:

- Develop an **independent study course** that connects their internship and concentration

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

Key requirements: F-1 status; at least two semesters of full-time enrollment prior to OPT start date; **declared concentration**

Connection to concentration:

Employment under OPT must be **directly related to your concentration.**

STEM OPT EXTENSION

STEM OPT: The STEM (**Science, Technology, Engineering and Math**) OPT extension allows students who have completed a degree in certain STEM fields to extend their OPT work authorization for an **additional 24 months** (36 total).

Connection to concentration:

Like OPT, employment under STEM OPT must be **directly related to your STEM concentration.**

Consult with the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (OISSS) to confirm your eligibility to work off-campus: brown.edu/go/oiss

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BALANCING WORK AUTHORIZATION WITH YOUR GOALS

Choosing a concentration should take into consideration your areas of academic interest, your future goals, and the requirements and processes for work authorization.

* EXPLORE CONCENTRATIONS

Explore undergraduate programs:

- Focal Point
- Bulletin



Alumni Pathways

Brown alumni with a degree in Africana Studies have gone on to careers in community organizing, consulting, economic development, education, finance, law, marketing, medicine, politics, public health, and public policy. What are Africana Studies concentrators doing...

...IN THEIR FIRST YEAR AFTER GRADUATION → ... 5 AND 10 YEARS AFTER GRADUATION →

Discover job outcomes for concentrations

- Access Focal Point and select a concentration
- Explore Alumni Pathways to view where alumni are working or studying after graduating

Connect with ongoing research and find a mentor

- **Researchers@Brown:** Discover faculty members and researchers by research area, department, and publications

* ACADEMIC ADVISING

- Connect with concentrators in **Departmental Undergraduate Groups (DUGs)**: dugs@brown.edu
- Contact Kelsey Trimm (International Students Program Coordinator) to discuss your academic and professional goals and plans.
- Meet with an academic dean: brown.edu/academics/college/academicadvisinghours

* REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What skills will I gain through pursuing this concentration?
- What major questions and/or issues does this field of study seek to address?
- What opportunities does this department offer?
- What are my short and long-term career goals?
- What kinds of careers have alumni pursued with this concentration?

FOCAL POINT

brown.edu/undergraduate_concentrations

Use Focal Point to:

- Explore concentrations at Brown
- View learning goals by concentration
- View contact information for concentration advisors
- Discover career outcomes for concentrations based on self-reported data from alumni

RESEARCHERS @BROWN

vivo.brown.edu

Use Researchers@Brown to:

- Search for research topics
- Discover faculty and researchers by research topic and Brown affiliation
- View contact information for researchers

UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

bulletin.brown.edu

Use the University Bulletin to:

- View academic requirements and concentration tracks
- Explore the general curriculum