How to Read the Fields of Concentration in the Handbook for Students

The following explanation offers some insight into how to use *Fields of Concentration* to explore the requirements for each concentration. While each entry is unique, there are some general principles that guide each concentration’s description.

All concentration entries begin with an introductory statement offering information about what students will study in concentration courses, what specific skills students will learn through their coursework, and what the overall goals for concentrators are as determined by the faculty overseeing the concentration. You are encouraged to read these entries carefully, as they are the basis by which particular courses are determined for concentration credit.

Following the introductory material, the concentration outlines the specific “Required Courses” for students pursuing a basic concentration as well as for honors eligibility (if available). The requirements may include specific courses such as “Economics 10a and 10b” in Economics or may offer a general topic for courses such as “One course that focuses significantly on U.S. or European history” in History.

Next, the requirements will indicate whether a “tutorial” is required for students. A tutorial is a seminar designed to train concentrators in the methods of the discipline. These courses often involve research and writing. Many tutorials are designed to prepare students for more advanced work in the field, such as a thesis.

The requirements may also outline whether you may take courses pass/fail or use alternate courses to fulfill requirements, or whether there are any unique components such as a writing, research, or language requirement. This information will ordinarily be listed under “Other information.”

Information about formal joint concentrations will also be included in the concentration entry in *Fields*. If you are considering pursuing a joint concentration, you should review this information carefully, as the number of required courses will generally be greater than for a single concentration.

Each concentration will also outline its approach to “Advising” including specific information about how concentration advisors are assigned and how you can connect with faculty in the department. Finally, each department lists information in “How to Find Out More” about the concentration. This section often includes the contact information for the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), Head Tutor, or other advisors in the concentration.

Reading through the entries for *Fields of Concentration* for those areas of study in which you are interested will provide you with a solid grounding in what you will learn from a particular concentration and what courses you will take.