Individual Student-Designed Concentration (ISD)

The broad, interdisciplinary nature of environment and sustainability topics means that the number of potential combinations of relevant disciplines and courses is large. The ISD concentration provides students an opportunity to work closely with an advisor to imagine and create a unique combination of courses to meet their own personal interests and explore domains beyond the specified ESS concentrations. It allows students to pursue greater depth in a specific area of environment and sustainability that is of particular personal interest, or design a distinct approach to understanding and engaging in (re)structuring the interactions between society and environment. Both of these approaches emphasize developing an ability to think carefully about the many ways in which humans interact with their environment.

Learning Goals: Each student should work with their faculty advisor to design a cohesive sequence of eight upper-division courses that constitutes a theme relevant to ESS, as well as to prepare a two-page (single-spaced) rationale for their theme and choice of courses. These eight courses should ensure development of specific competencies linked to personal and professional ambitions of the individual student.

Course Requirements: Eight courses beyond the ESS core requirements.

- No specific courses are required but at least six of the eight courses in the concentration must be 3000-level courses
- All courses must be at least three credits.
- Independent study courses, internship credits, and research credits are not eligible for the ISD concentration.
- Students interested in designing an individual concentration must complete an application before beginning the proposed courses in their theme. In addition, the rationale and list of courses selected should be completed prior to spring pre-enrollment (for the following fall semester) of their sophomore year. An electronic copy of the requisite form is available by contacting Suzanne Wapner, sw38@cornell.edu.