

International Affairs

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Degree Requirements

Master of Arts in International Affairs

Total Requirements: 30 units

The Master of Arts in International Affairs is a 30-unit program that includes four core courses and a capstone research project. The purpose of the required core courses is to develop a coherent structure that will underpin the AM by ensuring that some common theoretical foundations, knowledge and language are shared by students in this program and with graduates of similar programs around the world. This contributes to the building of a professional community and identity. Remaining electives may be chosen from International Affairs seminars or from other graduate-level courses approved by the School of Continuing & Professional Studies.

Required Core Courses: 12 units

Students must take four core courses aimed at the acquiring of a common understanding of foundational knowledge and skills for analyzing international affairs, thus enhancing their abilities to be thoughtful and critical users of academic research in applied settings and while pursuing careers in the field.

One required course is Process and Design of Research (IA 524), a research writing and methods seminar that helps students develop systematic tools for use as practitioners who write and present their work.

The other three core courses, selected from a list of core courses, provide a theoretical and substantive foundation for the analysis and understanding of international affairs. Students choose at least three core courses as indicated by the "International Affairs Core (IAC)" attribute in the course description. Examples include the following:

| Code | Title | Units |
|---------|--|-------|
| IA 5080 | U.S. Law and International Relations | 3 |
| IA 509 | International Organizations | 3 |
| IA 510 | The United Nations and International Security | 3 |
| IA 511 | International Law and Human Rights | 3 |
| IA 519 | International Growth and Development, Inequality, and Transitional Justice | 3 |
| IA 5310 | National Security Decision-Making | 3 |
| IA 535 | American Foreign Policy | 3 |

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| IA 5410 | Alternative Analytic Techniques for International Affairs | 3 |
| IA 5571 | Politics of Global Finance | 3 |
| IA 574 | International Relations | 3 |
| IA 5772 | State Failure, State Success and Development | 3 |

These courses are designed to enable students to develop expertise and understanding of dominant analytical frameworks, tools, and common language in the field of international affairs so that they are better prepared to engage with other professionals in the field. A selection of three core courses, which are overlapping, ensures that this foundation will be sound and robust.

Additional International Affairs Courses: 15 units

These courses may be chosen from International Affairs seminars or, with permission, from graduate-level courses in other departments.

Capstone Project: 3 units

After completing formal course work, all students are required to complete a capstone research project under the supervision of a Washington University faculty member.