

Master of Arts in International Affairs

Introduction

The Master of Arts in International Affairs program at NGCSU is designed to provide an advanced understanding of the international system along with a focus on the multiple facets of global security issues such as terrorism, strategic security policy, the examination of economic elements of security and the theories which define the field of international affairs. The degree will provide students the research and analytical skills which will allow them to advance in their profession or begin to explore a career in international affairs. All program instruction is delivered on-line through WebCT Vista.

For additional program information, call the Master of Arts in International Affairs Program, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice, (706) 864-1904, or write to Master of Arts in International Affairs Program, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice, West Main Hall, North Georgia College & State University, Dahlonega, Georgia 30597-1001.

Graduate Admissions Procedures

Application materials may be obtained from the Office of Graduate Admissions or from the NGCSU website, <http://www.ngcsu.edu>. Applicants must pay a one-time, non-refundable application fee. Admission requirements are listed below. When all application materials required to make an admission decision have been received by the Office of Graduate Admission, notification will be sent to the applicant via email and a copy of all materials will be forwarded to the program. Upon review, an email will be sent from the International Affairs program sent to the applicant verifying acceptance or denial.

Students who are admitted, but do not enroll within one year of acceptance must reapply through the Office of Graduate Admissions. Students who were previously enrolled but have not been in attendance within the last three terms must also reapply. All documents and materials submitted to fulfill the application requirements for entry to a program at NGCSU become the property of the university and will not be returned. These materials are kept for one year for incomplete application files and three years for completed and accepted, but not enrolled.

General Admissions Requirements for Graduate Program in International Affairs

The following documents must be received prior to admission:

1. A completed NGCSU Graduate Admissions application and application fee
2. Official transcripts from all institutions of higher education previously attended (All official international transcripts must have a foreign course-by-course credential evaluation done by an independent evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. Transcripts must include certification that the applicant has received a baccalaureate degree and state a calculated grade point average.
3. Official scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) (only if the GRE is to be used as a basis for admission and only those scores that are less than six years old will be considered.)
4. Two completed recommendation forms

Students who have not submitted all of the above documentation prior to the first day of the term will have a hold placed on their accounts and will not be allowed to register for subsequent terms until all documentation has been received.

Regular Admission

To qualify for regular admission, individuals must

1. Hold an earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited four-year institution with at least a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 (4.0 scale) calculated in accordance with NGCSU Graduate Admission procedures.

OR

2. Hold an earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited four-year institution and have received at least 950 on the GRE (verbal and quantitative combined).

3. Meet all other program admission requirements.
4. The meeting of all admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. Final admission is a competitive process that takes all aspects of a student's record into account.

Non-Degree Admission

Individuals interested in taking graduate courses in international affairs, but do not want to pursue a graduate degree, may apply for admission as a non-degree graduate student. Individuals must receive pre-approval from the international affairs program coordinator before enrolling in courses and may register for no more than a total of 6 hours of graduate credit.

The following documents must be received prior to admission:

1. Completed NGCSU Graduate Admissions application and application fee
2. Official transcripts from all institutions of higher education previously attended (All official international transcripts must have a foreign course-by-course credential evaluation done by an independent evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. Transcripts must include certification that the applicant has received a baccalaureate degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.75.)
3. Official scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) of at least 950 (verbal and quantitative combined) (Only those scores that are less than six years old will be considered.)
4. Two completed recommendation forms

Non-degree students wishing to apply for admission to the International Affairs degree program must notify the program coordinator, submit a new application, and meet all program admission requirements. All elective credit to be applied toward a degree must be approved by the international affairs program coordinator. Non-degree admitted students who earn a grade less than a B in any graduate course taken while holding a non-degree status will not be allowed to continue in the International Affairs program. Students who have been removed because of a deficient grade may not reapply for admission. Non-degree admitted students are not eligible for financial aid.

Transient Student Admission

This program does not permit transient student enrollment.

Appeal of Graduate Admission

A candidate whose application is denied has the right to appeal the decision. Appeals must be made in written form to the Graduate Program in International Affairs, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice, 82 College Circle, North Georgia College & State University, Dahlonega, Georgia 30597. The letter should clearly state the grounds for appeal. Students whose appeal is accepted will be admitted as a provisional student and must complete at least six hours with a grade no less than B to be considered for regular admission. Provisional students are not eligible for financial aid.

Academic Policies

Incomplete Marks

No student carrying two incomplete marks may enroll in additional course work without the written consent of the international affairs Program Coordinator. Incompletes must be finished by the beginning of the second term after which the incomplete was awarded. There are three terms within the course of the academic year; fall, spring, and summer. Incompletes which are not finished by the beginning of the second term will automatically become an F. No degree will be conferred on a student who has an unresolved incomplete grade remaining on his or her transcript.

Repeated Courses

No student enrolled in the M.A. in International Affairs Program nor a non-degree student taking International Affairs courses may repeat courses for credit or in an attempt to improve a grade.

Academic Standing Policy

Graduate international affairs students whose academic performance is unsatisfactory will be subject to the following:

1. Probation – A student will be placed on probation for any of the following reasons:
 - a. A student's cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0.
 - b. A student earns a U or any other grade below a C.

No student may be a candidate for the degree while on probation due to a GPA below a 3.0. Probation will be removed when the student's GPA reaches 3.0 or higher. In cases where the student is placed on probation due to grade(s), probation will be removed when the course(s) is/are repeated and the grade is S or B or greater, and the overall GPA is 3.0 or greater.

2. Suspension – A student will be placed on suspension for any of the following reasons:
 - a. The student earns more than two grades of C.
 - b. The student earns a grade below a C.
 - c. The student has already served three consecutive terms on academic probation.

No student may enroll in graduate courses at NGCSU while on suspension. Courses taken at another institution during the period of suspension will be not recognized for transfer credit. A student seeking reinstatement in the international affairs program must submit a new application and petition the international affairs program coordinator in writing laying out a rationale for their reinstatement. They will be readmitted only upon approval of the Dean of the School of Arts and Letters and the international affairs program coordinator.

Academic and Professional Conduct Policy

At the end of each term, the program faculty and/or international affairs program coordinator may intervene to establish a plan of action for any student in the program whose competency is in question, for reasons including unprofessional, disruptive, and/or unethical behavior in the classroom or applied setting. The plan will be signed by the student and the program coordinator with copies forwarded to the Dean of the School of Arts and Letters.

Policy on Plagiarism

The International Affairs faculty will use a combination of methods to detect plagiarism in the program including turnitin.com and Google searches, among others. Any student engaging in plagiarism will be immediately removed from the program. A student removed from the program for issues of plagiarism will be banned from ever reentering the program. Students dismissed from the program may appeal following the appeal process provided in the front of the Graduate Bulletin.

Academic Regulations

Students are expected to perform in accordance with the regulations stated in the Academic Regulations section of this bulletin. All of the rules, regulations, and standards published in the "Regulations of the M.A. in International Affairs Program" are incorporated by reference in this bulletin. Each student is responsible for obtaining a copy of this document and for adhering to its contents.

Transfer Residency Requirement

To be awarded a Master of Arts in International Affairs, students must earn a minimum of 30 hours of credit applicable to the degree in residence, unless NGCSU has an official transfer of graduate credits agreement for international affairs in place with another institution. In addition, no more than 6 hours of transfer credit may be applied toward meeting NGCSU's Master of Arts in International Affairs degree requirements. All course requirements, including transfer credits, must be completed within a six-year period. The international affairs program coordinator and the Dean of the School of Arts and Letters must approve all transfer credit. Transfer credit will not be given for any course in which a grade of less than a B was earned.

The Program

The M.A. in International Affairs program at NGCSU is an online program. All courses necessary for the degree will be offered online on a two year rotation basis. All courses for the degree will be offered within a 2 year cycle.

Degree Requirements

Graduation requirements for the Master of Arts in International Affairs student include:

1. Completion of 36 credit hours (18 hours of foundational courses, 6 hours of capstone, and 12 hours of specialization courses)
2. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0, with no more than two courses with a grade of C
3. Completion of at least 30 hours of graduate degree requirements in residence, with no more than 6 hours of transfer credit.
4. Completion of all degree-related course requirements, including transfer credit, within a six-year period.

Curriculum Requirements (36 hours)

Required Foundational Courses 18 Hours

POLS 7011 Theory of International Relations (3)
POLS 7012 Theory of International Political Economy (3)
POLS 7013 Research Methods for International Affairs (3)
POLS 7014 Foreign Policy Process (3)
POLS 7105 Global Governance (3)
POLS 7200 Leadership and Organizational Theory (3)

Area of Concentration - 12 Hours

Students are required to take 12 credit hours within an area of concentration. No more than 6 credit hours total can come from graduate course work taken outside political science or through transfer credit. The international affairs program coordinator at NGCSU has final approval over appropriate courses in addition to those listed below. Please check with the coordinator for applicability, prior to registering for the course.

At this time the only concentration offered in the program is International Security.

Regional concentrations in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East may be added as resources permit.

Courses approved for the International Security concentration

POLS 7201: International Security Issues(3)
POLS 7210: European Security Issues (3)
POLS 7230: National Security Policy of the United States (3)
POLS 7244: International Political Violence (3)
POLS 7350: Grand Strategy and Strategic Thought (3)

POLS 7015 International Affairs Capstone (6)

MA in IA Course Descriptions

MA in IA Courses

POLS 7011 Theory of International Relations (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the International Affairs program.

This seminar will provide an introduction to the theories of international relations. This course will serve as one of your foundational courses on which the rest of the program will be built. It will introduce students to the major theoretical areas including an overview of the role of theory, realism, liberalism, constructivism, the democratic peace, deterrence, cooperation, and domestic sources of international relations.

POLS 7012 Theory of International Political Economy (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the International Affairs program.

The course focuses on the theories, analytical approaches, historical evolution, and issues of international political economy (IPE). Economic theories of international trade and finance tell us that there are numerous benefits to be had from international economic exchange. Such exchange, however, creates "winners and losers" internationally and domestically. Those actors that are hurt seek redress through political channels. Thus, we also need to use political theory to understand and explain the patterns of global economic activity that we observe.

POLS 7013 Research Methods for International Affairs (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the International Affairs program.

This course introduces the student to the methods used by scholars of international affairs to study political events. This course will teach the student to properly frame a research question and create an effective research design to carry out original research.

POLS 7014 Foreign Policy Process (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the International Affairs program.

Foreign policy is a historically based, dynamic process with many individual actors, global causes and overlapping concepts. We will study the Presidency and Congress, the State Department and Intelligence Community, the Economic Bureau, Public Opinion and the Media, and issues such as the theoretical bases of policy-making and the tension between national security and democracy. This course explores how each of these operates and contributes to the making of U.S. foreign policy.

POLS 7015 International Affairs Capstone (6)

Prerequisite: Admission to the International Affairs program.

This course is a culminating experience whose goal is to link together previous coursework in International Affairs, study abroad, thesis and internship experiences. This course will focus blend experiential learning and reintegrate those experiences back to their theoretical basis.

POLS 7105 Global Governance (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the International Affairs program.

Although the absence of any overarching political authority serves to characterize world politics as anarchical, nation-states and other international actors have increasingly coordinated their actions in world affairs throughout the twentieth and twenty-first century. The study of global governance is the study of that cooperation.

POLS 7200 Leadership and Organizational Theory (3)

This course will study the evolution of the modern public organization and its theoretical foundations and historical development by delving into its seminal readings, placing an emphasis on the role of the leader in public organizations.

POLS 7201 International Security Issues (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the International Affairs program.

This course is an examination of both traditional and non-traditional security concerns for international entities. Issues such as military security, environmental security, and resource security will be covered.

POLS 7210 European Security Issues (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the International Affairs program.

This course will examine the environment and emerging security structures within Europe. It will examine the changing nature of the European security environment since creation of NATO, the fall of the Soviet Union, and the development of a separate EU structure. This course will look at the institutional structures along with the internal and external influences which drive European security issues.

POLS 7230 National Security Policy of the United States (3) Prerequisite: Admission to the International Affairs program.

A study of the organization of the U.S. Intelligence Community and selected other national intelligence services, including the People Republic of China, Russia, and Israel. Efforts to coordinate and share information regarding security operations between international entities will be examined in detail.

POLS 7244 International Political Violence (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the International Affairs program.

This course examines the evolution of terrorism and political violence with emphasis on the new dimensions of terrorism. Risks to U.S. national security interests, topics covered will include: weapons of mass destruction, information-based terrorism, homeland defense, and terrorism as a transnational phenomenon.

POLS 7350 Grand Strategy and Strategic Thought (3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the International Affairs program.

This course examines strategic thinking in the international system from both a security and policy standpoint. Students will be exposed to such classic strategic thinkers as Clausewitz, Sun-Tzu, Mahan, and Jomini along with modern strategists. This course will also focus on how states create and use statements of grand strategy and the role of strategic culture for influencing how states act in the system