

BA in International Relations

50 units

The international relations major (<https://www.apu.edu/clas/programs/international-relations-major/>) prepares students to be effective leaders in their community, nation, and the world. Students learn to make sense of global events, to identify the degree to which peaceful interactions and political crises shape the world, and to articulate Christian perspectives on relations between peoples and nations. The international relations major prepares students for many vocations through rigorous training in international politics, philosophy, history, geography, diplomacy, and security studies.

Career Opportunities

International relations majors are prepared for a variety of careers in the public and private sectors, in fields such as government, diplomatic relations, and economic negotiations. These include vocations in the federal government focusing on foreign policy formulation or analysis, aid programs, and development and cultural exchange, as well as careers dedicated to national security issues such as counterterrorism and cybersecurity. In the private sector, some students find the major useful as they prepare for careers in international business and commerce, while others have used the major as preparation for nonprofit development enterprises in agriculture and food production, or toward improving delivery of health services and clean water. Still others devote their time and energy to stopping human rights abuses including human trafficking.

Requirements

The Department of History and Political Science maintains the following requirements for each of the majors it offers:

- Students must complete all prerequisites for any HIST or POLI course with a C- or better before taking the course (except as noted in the course description).
- Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 in all political science and history courses required for the major.
- Students must complete each HIST or POLI course with a C- or higher for the course to meet a degree requirement in the Department of History and Political Science.

Code	Title	Units
Core Requirements		
POLI 150	American Government ¹	3
POLI 160	Introduction to Politics	3
POLI 180	Intro to International Relations	3
POLI 300	Writing 3: Research and Writing ²	3
HIST 334	History of American Foreign Affairs	3
POLI 496	Senior Seminar: Religion and Politics ³	3
Foreign Language Requirement: IR majors must complete two years (four semesters) of college-level study in the same modern foreign language (French, German, Spanish, Italian, or other modern foreign language approved by the department chair). Refer to the course catalog at home.apu.edu to see which courses are available.		14
Subject Requirements: Upper-Division Core		9
Select 9 units from the following:		
POLI 310	Political Geography	
POLI 320	Comparative Politics	
POLI 325	Seminar in International Relations	
POLI 380	Terrorism and Counterterrorism	
POLI 381	Theories of International Relations	
POLI 382	Diplomacy and Foreign Policy	
POLI 383	National Security	
POLI 385	Politics of Developing Countries	
POLI 421	Regional Studies	
POLI 422	International Organizations	
Electives		9
Select at least 9 units from the following courses not selected above:		
ECON 357	Economics of the Developing World	
ECON 371	Comparative Economics	
FIN 372	International Trade and Finance	

GLBL 465	Globalization and Development ⁴
HIST 320	Modern Africa
HIST 357	Enlightenment Europe
HIST 358	Europe 1789-1914
HIST 359	Europe 1914-1992
HIST 393	Ritual and Re-enactment in Modern Latin America
POLI 310	Political Geography
POLI 320	Comparative Politics
POLI 325	Seminar in International Relations
POLI 380	Terrorism and Counterterrorism
POLI 381	Theories of International Relations
POLI 382	Diplomacy and Foreign Policy
POLI 383	National Security
POLI 385	Politics of Developing Countries
POLI 390	History and Politics of the Non-Western World
POLI 399	Political Science Practicum
POLI 405	The American Presidency
POLI 421	Regional Studies
POLI 422	International Organizations
POLI 471	Political Topics
POLI 497	Readings
POLI 498	Directed Research
POLI 499	Thesis/Project

Total Units
50

¹ **Meets the General Education Civic Knowledge and Engagement requirement.**

² **Meets the General Education Writing 3 requirement.**

³ Meets the General Education Integrative and Applied Learning requirement.

⁴ Meets the General Education Social Sciences requirement

Program Learning Outcomes

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Students who successfully complete this program shall be able to:

1. American Government: Explain the principles, purposes, and main features of American government.
2. International Politics: Explain the main features of international politics.
3. Theory and Foreign Policy: Articulate the main schools of thought respecting international relations and describe the principal interests and ideas that inform U.S. foreign policy.
4. Political Philosophy: Analyze the writing of major thinkers in the history of political philosophy.
5. Christian Foundation: Articulate a Christian understanding of politics and government.
6. Professional Writing: Demonstrate ability to write and cite sources to professional standards within the discipline.