The International Security Studies Certificate

The International Security Studies Certificate consists of four courses or 12 credit hours. All courses taken through the ISS Certificate program will count toward the MA degree.

Students select from the same list of courses whether they are earning an MA degree or a Graduate Certificate.

To apply for this program, complete the online application at www.grad.arizona.edu. Click on “Graduate Programs” and find “International Security Studies—CERT” program.

Please send official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework as well as a résumé describing relevant experiences, responsibilities, and achievements to:

Certificate Applications
School of Government and Public Policy
PO Box 210027
The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721-0027
Attn: Cara Wallace
Program Overview

The Master of Arts in International Security Studies is a distance learning program taught by University of Arizona faculty. Each course is specifically designed for distance learning and is not available on campus. The program is aimed at military and civilian personnel seeking careers in intelligence, foreign policy analysis, and foreign service. It is also aimed at people who work with government, government contractors and nongovernmental organizations with interests in international affairs.

The program exposes future decision makers and analysts to the wide range of security challenges faced by the United States. The courses review the principal features of international security from the postwar period to today. The theme of some courses explores the U.S. national policy making, conflict in particular regions, the foreign policy strategy of major powers, climate change, international financial crises, and economic development.

Application Materials

Apply online to the Graduate College (grad.arizona.edu). Click on “Graduate Programs” and find the “International Security-MA” program. Please send official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work (including summer session) and résumé describing relevant experiences, responsibilities, and achievements to:

MA Applications
School of Government and Public Policy
PO Box 210027
The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721-0027
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Program Facts

Courses cover a wide variety of topics and themes. All courses are taught by qualified and experienced faculty who are academic experts in their fields.

- Students can finish the program in 18 months. All courses are delivered online. Three courses per semester/term will be offered. There will also be a summer session.
- Courses can be skipped and resumed at a later date for students who need to interrupt their studies. A Leave of Absence form should be completed in this case.
- A steady and reliable internet connection is important because all coursework and assignments are administered electronically. Courses consist of videotaped lectures, readings, discussion forums, and writing assignments.
- No financial assistance is available but the program has been officially approved by the VA and students can use their GI Bill as well as tuition assistance to cover the costs of the courses.

Admissions

Admissions are rolling and students can start Fall or Spring. The admissions process can take two to eight weeks depending upon how quickly official transcripts are submitted.

Students should apply no later than four weeks before the start of the course cycle.

Curriculum

The MA in International Security Studies consists of 36 credit hours and is delivered online through the Outreach College. Students must complete ten courses, each worth 3 credit hours, and a master’s thesis. The thesis counts for 6 credit hours and is supervised by a UA faculty member.

Three courses are taught per term. All courses require readings, writing assignments and a discussion forum. Instructors provide audio lectures, place reading materials on the course site (eCollege), and supervise the discussion forum. A partial list of courses includes:

- POL 519: Governance, Security & Terrorism
- POL 534A: Quantitative Analysis of Political & Military Problems
- POL 540A: Global Political Economy
- POL 542A: Topics in European Security
- POL 550A: Research Design in the Soc. Sciences
- POL 551: Soviet & Post Soviet Foreign Policy
- POL 565: International Politics of the Middle East
- POL 566: Japanese and Chinese Nationalism
- POL 579: Intelligence & US National Security

The conceptual framework applied across the courses relies on theory and empirical analysis to provide a strong interdisciplinary and cross-regional approach.

For more information, please contact Dr. Paulette Kurzer at (520) 621-7604 or kurzer@arizona.edu.