INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND LAW, BA

Banner Code: PP-BA-ISLW

Academic Advising

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The BA in International Security and Law is among the first programs in the country to combine the study of security with international law. The international security and law program:

- Teaches students to analyze enduring and new security challenges related to intelligence, cybersecurity, terrorism, migration, and environmental and technological change.
- Prepares students to apply these risk-assessment skills to be successful in positions in government, business, and international organizations.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

See Undergraduate Admission Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-policies/) for more information.

Policies

See AP.5 Undergraduate Policies (http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/) for more information.

Requirements

This page was edited on March 29th, 2024. The total required credits for Additional Coursework were corrected to align with the SCHEV approved program requirements. The Additional Coursework credit requirement for the 2023-2024 catalog previously stated a total of nine required credits and it has been changed to twelve required credits.

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 120

Major Core

Code	Title	Credits
GOVT 103	Introduction to American Government (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
GOVT 132	Introduction to International Politics (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
GOVT 133	Introduction to Comparative Politics (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
Total Credits		9

Advanced Core

Code	Title	Credits
Select one of the following (with director approval):		3
GOVT 134	Grand Challenges to Human Security (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
or GLOA 101	Introduction to Global Affairs (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
GOVT 342	Diplomacy	3
GOVT 346	American Security Policy	3
GOVT 347	International Security	3
GLOA 387	Human Security, Globalization, and Development	3
GOVT 441	Grand Strategy	3
GOVT 443	Law and Ethics of War	3
GOVT 446	International Law and Organization	3
GOVT 490	Synthesis Seminar (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	3
Total Credits		27

Professional Skills Core

Code	Title	Credits
GOVT 300	Research Methods and Analysis (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	4
GOVT 435	Data Analysis for Comparative and International Politics	3
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
GOVT 400	Issues in Political Analysis (3 credits selected within areas of Game Theory, Textual Analysis, Discourse Analysis, Data Visualization, or as approved by program advisor)	
CDS 101	Introduction to Computational and Data Sciences (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
CDS 230	Modeling and Simulation I	
CDS 292	Introduction to Social Network Analysis (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
CDS 301	Scientific Information and Data Visualization	
CDS 302	Scientific Data and Databases	
CDS 303	Scientific Data Mining	
COMM 204	Introduction to Public Relations	
COMM 350	Mass Communication and Public Policy	
COMM 362	Argument and Public Policy (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	

STAT 350	Introductory Statistics II	
STAT 463	Introduction to Exploratory Data Analysis	
Total Credits		10

Additional Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
Select 12 credits from the following: [1]		12
GOVT 319	Issues in Government and Politics [2]	
GOVT 331	Government and Politics of Latin America	
GOVT 332	Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	
GOVT 333	Government and Politics of Asia	
GOVT 334	Government and Politics of Europe	
GOVT 338	Government and Politics of Russia	
GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	
GOVT 341	Chinese Foreign Policy	
GOVT 344	American Foreign Policy	
GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	
GOVT 361	Introduction to Environmental Policy	
GOVT 362	Intermediate Environmental Policy	
GOVT 444	Issues in International Studies [2]	
GOVT 445	Human Rights	
GOVT 447	Revolution and International Politics	
GOVT 448	Ethics and International Politics	
CONF 335	Justice and Reconciliation	
CONF 340	Global Conflict Analysis and Resolution (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
CONF 345	Social Dynamics of Terrorism, Security, and Justice	
CONF 394	Human Rights and Inequality	
CRIM 230	Introduction to Homeland Security	
CRIM 308	Human Rights and Justice	
CRIM 310	Introduction to the Intelligence Community	
CRIM 350	Counterintelligence	
CRIM 405	Law and Justice around the World (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
CRIM 475	Theory and Politics of Terrorism	
GCH 205	Global Health (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
INTS 210	Sustainable World (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
GLOA 101	Introduction to Global Affairs (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
INTS 314	Conflict, Trauma and Healing	
GLOA 450	Topics in Global Affairs [2]	
INTS 362	Social Justice and Human Rights (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
INTS 417	Human Trafficking and Smuggling	

PHIL 112	Ethics and the Cybersociety (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
PHIL 243	Global Environmental Ethics (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/)	
Total Credits		12

[1]

At least six of the twelve credits must be from GOVT courses.

[2]

Topics to include Law and Security, Technology and Security, National Security Budgeting, or at the program director's discretion.

[3]

Topics included at the program director's discretion.

Applied Skills Requirement

Code	Title	Credits
Competence-based coursework		6
Total Credits		6

Students must complete 6 credits of competence-based coursework taken from any combination of:

- Language courses beyond the intermediate level
- Internship courses
- Study abroad courses offered by Mason's Global Education Office (https://studyabroad.gmu.edu/)

Electives

Any remaining credits may be completed with electives to bring the degree total to 120.

Mason Core

Some Mason Core (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) requirements.

Students who have completed the following credentials are eligible for a waiver of the Foundation and Exploration (lower level) requirement categories. The Integration category (upper level) is not waived under this policy. See Admissions (http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-policies/#transfertext) for more information.

- VCCS Uniform Certificate of General Studies
- VCCS or Richard Bland Associate of Science (A.S.), Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Arts and Sciences (A.A.&S.), or Associate of Fine Arts (A.F.A.)

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
Written Communication (ENGH 101) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#written)		3
Oral Communication (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#oral)		3
Quantitative Reasoning (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#quantitative)		3

Information Technology and Computing (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#information-technology)	3
Exploration Requirements	
Arts (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#arts)	3
Global History (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global-history)	3
Global Understanding (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#global)	3
Literature (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#literature)	3
Natural Science (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#natural-science)	7
Social and Behavioral Sciences (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#social-behavioral-science)	3
Integration Requirements	
Written Communications (ENGH 302) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#written)	3
Writing-Intensive (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#wi) [1]	3
Synthesis/Capstone (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/#synthesis-capstone) [2]	3
Total Credits	40

[1]

Most programs include the writing-intensive course designated for the major as part of the major requirements; this course is therefore not counted towards the total required for Mason Core.

[2]

Minimum 3 credits required.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Highly qualified students majoring in an undergraduate Schar School program may pursue advanced work leading to graduation with honors in the major. Those students selected for participation in this program take a two-course sequence: GOVT 491 (https://catalog.gmu.edu/search/?P=GOVT%20491) Honors Seminar (Mason Core) (https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) and GOVT 496 (https://catalog.gmu.edu/search/?P=GOVT%20496) Directed Readings and Research. To graduate with honors in the major, students must complete these courses with a minimum GPA of 3.50.