

International Relations, B.S.

A major in international relations focuses on economic relations between states, a crucial area of study in today's globalized world. Students are introduced to the politics of foreign countries. They develop an understanding of how countries interact and acquire a deep appreciation for the root causes of problems that transcend national boundaries.

Requirements for the major are the same for B.S. and B.A. students, except that the major for the B.S. requires a set of mathematics/statistics courses, while the major for the B.A. does not.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates will:

- possess a broad understanding of international relations,
- be able to apply a theoretical approach in international relations to understand a specific area of international relations,
- have effective written and oral communication skills, and
- be able to conceptualize problems and apply analytical tools to solve them.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Science with a major in international relations requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 47 s.h. of work for the major. At least 18 s.h. of coursework for the major must be taken at the University of Iowa. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

Students choose one of five tracks: conflict and foreign policy, international business and economic relations, regional politics and relationships, transnational issues, or a self-defined track.

The B.S. with a major in international relations requires the following coursework.

Code	Title	Hours
	International Relations Core	12-13
	Methods Course	3
	Senior Seminar Courses	4
	Mathematics/Statistics Courses	10-11
	Track Courses	18-19
	Total Hours	47-50

International Relations Core

Code	Title	Hours
All of these:		
POLI:1500	Introduction to International Relations	3
POLI:3512	International Conflict	3
POLI:3516	The Politics of International Economics	3
One of these:		
HIST:1101	The Modern World	3

HIST:1403	The West and the World: Modern	3
HIST:3143	International Politics: The History of the Present	3-4
HIST:3155	The World Since 1945	3

Methods Course

Code	Title	Hours
One of these:		
POLI:2000	Designing Political Research	3
POLI:3000	Analyzing Political Data	3

Senior Seminar Courses

Code	Title	Hours
This course:		
POLI:4802	International Relations Senior Seminar Preparation	1
One of these:		
POLI:4800	Senior Seminar in International Relations	3
POLI:4801	Honors Senior Seminar in International Relations	3

Mathematics/Statistics Courses

Students must complete one of the following approved sets of mathematics/statistics courses (10-11 s.h.) with a g.p.a. of at least 2.00. Substitutions must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies.

Set 1

Code	Title	Hours
MATH:1380	Calculus and Matrix Algebra for Business (or equivalent or higher-level calculus course)	4
STAT:4143/ PSQF:4143	Introduction to Statistical Methods	3
STAT:6513/ PSQF:6243	Intermediate Statistical Methods	3

Set 2

Code	Title	Hours
MATH:1850	Calculus I	4
MATH:1860	Calculus II	4
STAT:4143/ PSQF:4143	Introduction to Statistical Methods	3

Tracks

International relations students complete one of the following five tracks, each of which requires 18 s.h. of coursework. Students who would like to declare the major in international relations before deciding on a track may declare the open track for advising purposes. They should talk with an advisor and decide on a track as soon as possible.

- Conflict and Foreign Policy Track [p. 2]
- International Business and Economic Relations Track [p. 2]
- Regional Politics and Relationships Track [p. 2]

- Transnational Issues Track [p. 3]
- Self-Defined Track [p. 4]

Conflict and Foreign Policy Track

The conflict and foreign policy track requires the following coursework (minimum of 18 s.h.).

Code	Title	Hours
This course:		
POLI:1501	Introduction to American Foreign Policy	3
Five of these, including at least 6 s.h. in courses from each of two departments:		
POLI:2417	Comparative Environmental Policy	3
POLI:3035	Careers in Political Science and International Relations	3
POLI:3126	Environmental Policy	3
POLI:3405	Authoritarian Politics	3
POLI:3410	Russian Foreign Policy	3
POLI:3411	Democracy: Global Trends and Struggles	3
POLI:3420	Southeast Asia: Politics and Development	3
POLI:3422	Horn of Africa: Politics and Transnational Issues	3
POLI:3423	The Middle East: Policy and Diplomacy	3
POLI:3425	South Asia: Politics, Identity, and Conflict	3
POLI:3503	Politics of Terrorism	3
POLI:3505	Civil Wars	3
POLI:3506	Consequences of War	3
POLI:3509	International Courts: The Intersection of Law and Politics	3
POLI:3518	Water Wars: Conflict and Cooperation	3
POLI:3522	Ending Wars and Keeping Peace	3
POLI:3530	Diplomacy Lab	arr.
POLI:3550	Problems of International Politics	3
POLI:3603	War and Film	3
HIST:2420/ GRMN:2720	Germany in the World	3-4
HIST:3106	History Behind the Headlines	3
HIST:3145	Europe and the United States in the Twentieth Century	3
HIST:3242	The United States in World Affairs	3-4
HIST:4176	Vietnam War on Film	3-4
HIST:4228	Cold War America	3
HIST:4264	The American Home Front During World War II	3
HIST:4478	Holocaust in History and Memory	3
HIST:4499	First World War	3-4
HIST:4620/ JPNS:4620	Japan-U.S. Relations	3

International Business and Economic Relations Track

The international business and economic relations track requires the following coursework (minimum of 19 s.h.).

Code	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
ECON:1100	Principles of Microeconomics	4
ECON:1200	Principles of Macroeconomics	4
GEOG:2910	The Global Economy	3
Four of these, including courses from at least two departments:		
POLI:2417	Comparative Environmental Policy	3
POLI:3035	Careers in Political Science and International Relations	3
POLI:3126	Environmental Policy	3
POLI:3400	Political Economy	3
POLI:3424	Global Development	3
POLI:3504	Globalization	3
POLI:3524	Politics and Multinational Enterprises	3
ECON:3345	Global Economics and Business	3
ECON:3620	Economic Growth and Development	3
ECON:3625/ URP:3135	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	3
ECON:3750/ GEOG:3940/ URP:3350	Transportation Economics	3
ECON:4110	International Economics	3
ENTR:4460	Entrepreneurship and Global Trade	3
FIN:4240	International Finance (prerequisite required)	3
GEOG:2410	Environment and Development	3
GEOG:3070/ GHS:3070	Hungry Planet: Global Geographies of Food	3
GEOG:3800	Environmental Economics and Policy	3
HIST:3240/ GEOG:3780/ GHS:3780	U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context	3
IS:3200	Sustainable Development	3
MGMT:3450	International Business Environment	3
MKTG:4300	International Marketing (prerequisite required)	3

Regional Politics and Relationships Track

The regional politics and relationships track requires the following coursework (minimum of 18 s.h.).

Code	Title	Hours
This course:		
POLI:1400	Introduction to Comparative Politics	3

Five of these, including at least 6 s.h. in courses from each of two departments:

POLI:1401	Introduction to Russian Politics	3
POLI:1445	Introduction to Asian Politics: China	3
POLI:1449	Introduction to European Politics	3
POLI:2415	Latin American Politics	3
POLI:2500	Politics of Natural Disasters	3
POLI:3035	Careers in Political Science and International Relations	3
POLI:3405	Authoritarian Politics	3
POLI:3408	Chinese Politics and Society	3
POLI:3410	Russian Foreign Policy	3
POLI:3420	Southeast Asia: Politics and Development	3
POLI:3422	Horn of Africa: Politics and Transnational Issues	3
POLI:3423	The Middle East: Policy and Diplomacy	3
POLI:3424	Global Development	3
POLI:3425	South Asia: Politics, Identity, and Conflict	3
POLI:3426	Outliers: Comparing Odd Countries	3
POLI:3450	Problems in Comparative Politics	3
POLI:3514	Regional Peace and Security	3
HIST:1602/ ASIA:1602	Civilizations of Asia: China from the 17th Century to the Present	3
HIST:1604/ ASIA:1604	Civilizations of Asia: Japan	3-4
HIST:1606/ ASIA:1606/ RELS:1606	Civilizations of Asia: South Asia	3-4
HIST:1607/ ASIA:1607	Civilizations of Asia: Korea	3-4
HIST:1609/ ASIA:1609	India Now! Surveying the World's Largest Democracy	3-4
HIST:1708	Civilizations of Africa	3
HIST:2420/ GRMN:2720	Germany in the World	3-4
HIST:3145	Europe and the United States in the Twentieth Century	3
HIST:3289/ NAIS:3289	The Atlantic World c. 1450-1850	3
HIST:3416	Modern Britain: War and Empire in the Twentieth Century	3
HIST:3470	France from 1815 to Present	3
HIST:3475	Germany's Twentieth Century	3-4
HIST:3501/ LAS:3501	Rebel Island: A History of Cuba	3
HIST:3515/ LAS:3515	Introduction to Modern Latin America	3
HIST:3652/ ASIA:3652	Twentieth-Century China	3

HIST:3685/ ASIA:3685	Modern Korean History	3
HIST:3760/ AFAM:3760	The Making of Modern Africa	3
HIST:3810	History of the Modern Middle East	3
HIST:4433/ FREN:4433	France Under Nazi Occupation, 1940-1944	3-4
HIST:4438	Modern European Imperialism	3
HIST:4502/ LAS:4502/ NAIS:4502	History of Mexico	3
HIST:4615/ JPNS:4615	Modern Japan	3
HIST:4666/ ASIA:4166	Topics in Asian History	3

Transnational Issues Track

The transnational issues track requires the following coursework (minimum of 18 s.h.).

Code	Title	Hours
Six of these, including at least 3 s.h. in courses from each of three departments:		
POLI:2417	Comparative Environmental Policy	3
POLI:2500	Politics of Natural Disasters	3
POLI:3035	Careers in Political Science and International Relations	3
POLI:3126	Environmental Policy	3
POLI:3411	Democracy: Global Trends and Struggles	3
POLI:3422	Horn of Africa: Politics and Transnational Issues	3
POLI:3424	Global Development	3
POLI:3509	International Courts: The Intersection of Law and Politics	3
CRIM:3415	Global Criminology	3
ECON:3625/ URP:3135	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	3
ECON:3750/ GEOG:3940/ URP:3350	Transportation Economics	3
ECON:3760	Health Economics	3
GEOG:1020	The Global Environment	3
GEOG:1070	Contemporary Environmental Issues	3
GEOG:1090	Globalization and Geographic Diversity	3
GEOG:2110/ GHS:2110	Seven Billion and Counting: Introduction to Population Dynamics	3
GEOG:2410	Environment and Development	3
GEOG:3070/ GHS:3070	Hungry Planet: Global Geographies of Food	3
GEOG:3110/ GHS:3111	Geography of Health	3

GEOG:3300/ GHS:3300	Envisioning Future Worlds: Sustainable Development and Its Alternatives	3
GEOG:3331	Human Dimensions of Climate	3
GEOG:3780/ GHS:3780/ HIST:3240	U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context	3
GEOG:3800	Environmental Economics and Policy	3
GEOG:4770/ AFAM:4770/ GHS:4770	Environmental Justice	3
GHS:3015/ GWSS:3010	Transnational Sexualities	3
GHS:3030/ CPH:3240	Global Health Today	1
GHS:3036	Ethics, Politics, and Global Health	3
GHS:3037	Technology to Improve Global Health	3
GHS:3050/ ASP:3135/ SSW:3135	Global Aging	3
GHS:3110/ ANTH:3110/ NAIS:3110	Colonialism and Indigenous Health Equity	3
GHS:3120	Global Maternal and Child Health	3
GHS:3150/ CBH:3150/JMC:3150	Media and Health	3
GHS:3180	Climate Change and Health	3
GHS:3230	Health Experience of Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees	3
GHS:3325	Global Epidemics	3
GHS:3500/ CPH:3500	Global Public Health	3
GHS:3560	Global Garbage and Global Health	3
GHS:3720	Contemporary Issues in Global Health	3
GHS:3850/ HHP:3850	Promoting Health Globally	3
GHS:4003	Case Studies in Global Health Inequities	3
GHS:4162/ HIST:4162	History of Global Health	3
GHS:4600	Global Health and Human Rights	2-3
GWSS:1046/ ANTH:1046/ GEOG:1046/ SJUS:1046	Environmental Politics in India	3
GWSS:2151/ ANTH:2151/IS:2151	Global Migration in the Contemporary World	3
GWSS:2190/ ANTH:2190/IS:2190	Love Rules: Law and the Family Across Cultures	3
GWSS:2650/ GHS:2650	Global Reproduction	3
GWSS:3010/ GHS:3015	Transnational Sexualities	3

GWSS:3157/ HIST:3157	Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights	3
GWSS:3350/ ANTH:3125/IS:3350	Transnational Feminism	3
HIST:3240/ GEOG:3780/ GHS:3780	U.S. Energy Policy in Global Context	3
HIST:3508/ GHS:3508/LAS:3508	Disease and Health in Latin American History	3
HIST:4101	History of Human Rights	3
HIST:4438	Modern European Imperialism	3
HRTS:3905/IS:3905	Topics in Human Rights	1-3
HRTS:3906	Global Crises and Human Rights	3
HRTS:3910/IS:3910	Human Rights Advocacy	3
IS:2151/ ANTH:2151/ GWSS:2151	Global Migration in the Contemporary World	3
IS:3116/JMC:3116	Media and Global Cultures	3
IS:3200	Sustainable Development	3
IS:4131/ COMM:4131	Globalization and Culture	3

Self-Defined Track

Students may create their own track with permission from the director of undergraduate studies. A self-defined track may not duplicate an existing track or another academic program of study at the University of Iowa. It must consist of at least 18 s.h. of coursework, which must include 3 s.h. of credit earned in courses from each of three departments.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in international relations have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Students must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33, as required by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and a major g.p.a. of at least 3.50. Students also must complete POLI:4000 Honors Seminar on the Study of Politics in addition to the minimum major requirements. Honors students complete an honors thesis through their enrollment in POLI:4801 Honors Senior Seminar in International Relations.

National Honor Society

The department sponsors a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Students who have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.30, have attained junior standing, and have completed 15 s.h. of coursework in political science are considered for membership. Contact the Department of Political Science honors advisor for more information.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the international relations major.

Career Advancement

Because international relations and the international community are so important, a major in international relations is an excellent choice for any student considering a career in either the public or private sector, including the diplomatic service, intelligence organizations, multinational corporations, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, think tanks, public health agencies, the media, and numerous other professions. The international relations major also prepares students to pursue postbaccalaureate degrees such as the J.D., M.A., or Ph.D.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Before the third semester begins: POLI:1500 Introduction to International Relations.

Before the fifth semester begins: all core courses and the methods course.

Before the seventh semester begins: at least two of the mathematics/statistics courses, at least 12 s.h. in the track, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: all core courses, the methods course, the remaining mathematics/statistics course, and all track requirements.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plans of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

International Relations, B.S.

- Conflict and Foreign Policy Track [p. 5]
- Transnational Issues Track [p. 6]

Conflict and Foreign Policy Track

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
Fall		
POLI:1500	Introduction to International Relations ^a	3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^b		4 - 5
Elective course ^c		3

CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Hours		15-17

Spring

Major: history core course ^d		3 - 4
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^b		4 - 5
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion ^e		3
Elective course ^c		3

Hours 16-19

Second Year

Fall

POLI:1501	Introduction to American Foreign Policy ^{a, f}	3
POLI:2000 or POLI:3000	Designing Political Research or Analyzing Political Data	3
Major: calculus course ^{a, g, h}		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^b		4 - 5
Elective course ^c		2 - 3

Hours 16-18

Spring

POLI:3512	International Conflict	3
Major: calculus or statistics course ^g		3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^b		4 - 5
Elective course ^c		3
Elective course ^c		3

Hours 16-18

Third Year

Fall

POLI:3516	The Politics of International Economics	3
Major: conflict and foreign policy track course numbered POLI:XXXX ^f		3
Major: statistics course ^g		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture ^e		3
Elective course ^c		3

Hours 15

Spring

Major: conflict and foreign policy track course numbered HIST:XXXX ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^e		3
Elective course ^c		3
Elective course ^c		3
Elective course ^c		3

Hours 15

Fourth Year

Fall

POLI:4802	International Relations Senior Seminar Preparation	1
Major: conflict and foreign policy track course numbered POLI:XXXX ^f		3
Major: conflict and foreign policy track course numbered POLI:XXXX or HIST:XXXX ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^e		3

GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab	3
Elective course ^c	2
Hours	15
Spring	
POLI:4800 or POLI:4801 Senior Seminar in International Relations or Honors Senior Seminar in International Relations	3
Major: conflict and foreign policy track course numbered HIST:XXXX ^f	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^e	4
Elective course ^c	3
Elective course ^c	2 - 3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ⁱ	
Hours	15-16
Total Hours	123-133

- a Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- b Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
- c Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- d Refer to the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- e GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- f The conflict and foreign policy track requires POLI:1501 and at least five additional approved courses (18 s.h. total). This must include at least 6 s.h. in courses from each of two departments.
- g Students must complete one of the approved sets of mathematics/statistics courses (10-11 s.h.).
- h Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- i Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.

Transnational Issues Track

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
Fall		
POLI:1500	Introduction to International Relations ^a	3
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion ^b		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^c		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Hours		15-17
Spring		
Major: history core course ^d		3 - 4
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^c		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		3

Elective course ^e	3
Hours	16-19

Second Year

Fall

POLI:2000 or POLI:3000	Designing Political Research or Analyzing Political Data	3
Major: transnational issues track course ^f		3
Major: calculus course ^{a, g, h}		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^c		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		2 - 3
Hours		16-18

Spring

POLI:3512	International Conflict	3
Major: calculus or statistics course ^g		3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^c		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		16-18

Third Year

Fall

Major: transnational issues track course ^f	3
Major: statistics course ^g	3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture ^b	3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^b	3
Elective course ^e	3
Hours	15

Spring

Major: transnational issues track course ^f	3
Major: transnational issues track course ^f	3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^b	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3
Hours	15

Fourth Year

Fall

POLI:3516	The Politics of International Economics	3
POLI:4802	International Relations Senior Seminar Preparation	1
Major: transnational issues track course ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^b		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^b		3
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		16

Spring

POLI:4801 or POLI:4800	Honors Senior Seminar in International Relations or Senior Seminar in International Relations	3
Major: transnational issues track course ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^b		4
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		2 - 3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline
(typically in February for spring, September for fall) ⁱ

Hours	15-16
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Total Hours	124-134
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- a Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- b GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- c Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
- d Refer to the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- e Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- f The transnational issues track requires at least six approved track courses (18 s.h. total). This must include at least 3 s.h. in courses from each of three departments.
- g Students must complete one of the approved sets of mathematics/statistics courses (10-11 s.h.).
- h Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- i Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.