

Master of Science in International Political Economy

Faculty

Professors: Sheila Amin de Gutiérrez de Piñeres, Brian J.L. Berry, Kurt Beron, Lloyd Jeff Dumas, Euel Elliott, Paul Jargowsky, Murray Leaf, Todd Sandler, Richard Scotch

Associate Professors: Bobby Alexander, Marie Chevrier, Simon Fass, Jennifer S. Holmes, Susan McElroy, Kevin Siqueira

Assistant Professors: Roxanne Ezzet-Lofstrom, Clint Peinhardt, Carole Wilson

Objectives

Today, more careers increasingly require international knowledge and skills that transcend the confines of traditional disciplinary training. The Master of Science in International Political Economy will develop students' critical skill sets to meet the needs and demands of the international diplomatic and business sectors. These skills include critical thinking, knowledge of multiple cultures, and cultural contexts, rigorous research skills, and the ability to communicate effectively in an array of environments. Students will be prepared to advance careers in policy and data analysis, and administrative positions in government, the non-profit and private sectors.

Facilities

Students have access to the computing facilities in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences and the University's Computing Center. The School has two computing laboratories that have over 30 computers that are network linked and equipped with major social science software packages, including E-Views, R, Rats, SPSS, and STATA. A computerized geographic information system, the Lexis Nexis Database and WestLaw are also available for student use. The University's Computing Center provides personal computers and UNIX Workstations. Many important data and reference materials are also available online via the library and school's memberships in numerous organizations.

Admissions Requirement

The University's general admission requirements are discussed [here](#).

The master's program in International Political Economy seeks applications from students with a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university or college. Although applications will be reviewed holistically, in general, entering students have earned a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), and a combined verbal and quantitative score of at least 1100 on the Graduate Records Examination (GRE). Standardized test scores are only one of the factors taken into account in determining admission. Students should also submit all transcripts, three letters of recommendation, and a one-page essay outlining the applicant's background, education, and professional objectives.

Prerequisites

While there are no specific course prerequisites, entering students will benefit from exposure to undergraduate courses in the Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, statistics, and research design. Students are strongly encouraged to strengthen their foreign language skills.

Transfer Policies

Students who have previous graduate work pertinent to the requirements of a master's program may be given up to 15 hours of transfer credit, and the hours of coursework required for the degree will be reduced accordingly. Students desiring to transfer graduate courses thought to be equivalent to core courses may be required to demonstrate competency through examination. The award of such transfer credit must be consistent with the University's "Transfer of Credit" policy.

Degree Requirements

The University's general degree requirements are discussed on pg. 18.

Students seeking a Master of Science in International Political Economy must complete at least 36 semester credit hours of work in the program. The program has three components:

- (1) Eighteen semester hours of required coursework
- (2) Twelve semester hours of prescribed electives
- (3) Six hours of free electives.

Students must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average to graduate. Moreover, students must demonstrate a foreign language proficiency equivalent to two years of study in one foreign language before graduation.

Required Courses (18 hours)

All students should complete the core courses as soon as possible.

POEC/PA 5313 Descriptive and Inferential Statistics

POEC 5316 Advanced Regression Analysis

One of the following:

POEC 5305 Microeconomics for Policy

or

POEC 5307 Economics for Public Policy

One of the following:

POEC 6360 World Political Economy

or

POEC 6366 International Economics

One of the following:

PSCI 6309 International Political Economy and Organization

or

POEC 6335 Institutions and Development

or

POEC 6337 Comparative Institutions

of

POEC 6362 Political Development

One of the following:

POEC 6V76 Policy Research Workshop in Development Studies

or

POEC 5310 Research Design I

or

POEC 6352 Evaluation Research

A new course, Policy Research Workshop in International Political Economy, will be updated for the 2008-2010 catalog. Students should see the Program Director to determine a suitable substitute in the interim.

Prescribed Electives

Students complete 12 hours of Prescribed Electives. These consist of:

- (1) An area concentration in which the student completes two courses (six hours) in history, advanced language, or area studies courses that address a single region, including Europe, Latin America, Middle East or Greater Asia.
- (2) A theme concentration in which the student completes two courses (six hours) in Development, International Business and Public Policy, International Negotiations, or Security Studies

Courses in both the area concentrations and theme concentrations must have the approval of the Program Director.

Elective Courses

Students also select, in consultation with the Program Director, an additional six hours of coursework. Students may select courses from those courses not selected under Required Courses.