

International Studies

M.A.

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Institutional Mission Reference

The M.A. program in International Studies offers graduate education that meets national standards of excellence. Recruited from multiple disciplines, program faculty are committed to high quality research, teaching, and national and international outreach. The program supports the University's mission to enhance its role as Virginia's international university.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported

The M.A. program in International Studies supports the University goals of teaching excellence, creation of new knowledge, and responsiveness to the international setting of Hampton Roads. The program also supports the University Strategic Initiatives 2 (Excellent Graduate Programs) and 6 (Premier International University) as detailed in the University's Strategic Plan 2000-2005.

Intended (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, and Criteria for Success

Intended Outcome 1

Students will understand the major theoretical approaches to international relations.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: Students will demonstrate knowledge of existing literature in a written comprehensive examination after the conclusion of course work. Ninety percent of students will pass the comprehensive examination (as assessed by a team of three faculty members).

GPIS has extensively reviewed its examination procedures this past academic year. Five students took the MA comprehensive examination this past Spring, and all passed.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: Students will demonstrate knowledge of existing literature in a master's thesis. Quality of thesis assessed by a team of three faculty members.

No GPIS student wrote a master's thesis this year.

Intended Outcome 2

Students will have effective knowledge of the history of international relations since the end of World War II.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: Students will demonstrate effective knowledge of the history of international relations since the end of

World War II in a written comprehensive examination after the conclusion of course work. Ninety percent of students will pass the comprehensive examination (as assessed by a team of three faculty members).

GPIS has extensively reviewed its examination procedures this past academic year. Five students took the MA comprehensive examination this past Spring, and all passed.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the history of international relations since the end of World War II in a master's thesis. Quality of thesis assessed by a team of three faculty members.

No GPIS student wrote a master's thesis this year.

Intended Outcome 3

Students will have effective knowledge in international economics.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: Students will demonstrate effective knowledge of international economics in a written comprehensive examination after the conclusion of course work. Ninety percent of students will pass the comprehensive examination (as assessed by a team of three faculty members).

GPIS has extensively reviewed its examination procedures this past academic year. Five students took the MA comprehensive examination this past Spring, and all passed.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: Students will demonstrate knowledge of international economics in a master's thesis. Quality of thesis assessed by a team of three faculty members.

No GPIS student wrote a master's thesis this year.

Intended Outcome 4

Students will develop substantial expertise in one major subfield of international relations (International Political Economy, Conflict and Cooperation, Foreign Policy, or Transnational Studies).

Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success: Students will demonstrate effective knowledge of their subfield in a written comprehensive examination after the conclusion of course work. Ninety percent of students will pass the comprehensive examination (as assessed by a team of three faculty members).

GPIS has extensively reviewed its examination procedures this past academic year. Five students took the MA comprehensive examination

this past Spring, and all passed.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success: Students will demonstrate knowledge of their subfield in a master's thesis. Quality of thesis assessed by a team of three faculty members.

No GPIS student wrote a master's thesis this year.

Intended Outcome 5

Students will develop a working knowledge of social science research methods.

Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success: Students will pass a research methods seminar.

Six GPIS MA students took IS600, the research methods seminar, this past year. Five of the students passed. One student took an incomplete and will retake the class next year.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success: Students will use appropriate research methods in their thesis projects.

No GPIS student wrote a master's thesis this year.

Intended Outcome 6

Students will communicate effectively in writing.

Method for Assessing Outcome 6 and Criterion for Success: Students will write effectively in their comprehensive examinations.

GPIS has extensively reviewed its examination procedures this past academic year. Five students took the MA comprehensive examination this past Spring, and all passed.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 6 and Criterion for Success: Students will write effectively in their theses.

No GPIS student wrote a master's thesis this year.

Intended Outcome 7

Students will communicate effectively orally.

Method for Assessing Outcome 7 and Criterion for Success: Students will make effective oral presentations on class projects throughout their course work.

Most GPIS seminars now have an oral presentation as a requirement. We are working on developing more effective methods for teaching and assessing oral presentation skills.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 7 and Criterion for Success: Students will make an effective oral presentation in their oral thesis defense. Quality assessed by a team of three faculty members.

No GPIS student wrote a master's thesis this year.

Intended Outcome 8

Students will gain a working knowledge of at least one foreign language.

Method for Assessing Outcome 8 and Criterion for Success: Students who cannot demonstrate prior evidence of knowledge of at least one foreign language will pass a written comprehensive examination administered by Foreign Languages and Literatures Department.

We are currently working with the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department on developing a more consistent set of tests for assessing foreign language abilities.

No GPIS student can graduate without demonstrating foreign language competence.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 8 and Criterion for Success: Students will pass at least two 300-level foreign language courses with a grade of "B" or better.