

International Studies

PhD

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Institutional Mission Reference

The Ph.D. program in International Studies offers advanced 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 Ph.D. 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 and oral 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).

We have extensively reviewed the comprehensive examination procedures this past year. Eight students took the examination this year. Seven students passed. The student who failed will retake the exam this coming August.

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 and oral 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).

We have extensively reviewed the comprehensive examination procedures this past year.

Eight students took the examination this year. Seven students passed. The student who failed will retake the exam this coming August.

Intended Outcome 3

Students will demonstrate knowledge of their major subfield in a written and oral comprehensive examination after the conclusion of course work.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: Ninety percent of students will pass the comprehensive examination (as assessed by a team of three faculty members).

We have extensively reviewed the comprehensive examination procedures this past year.

Eight students took the examination this year. Seven students passed. The student who failed will retake the exam this coming August.

Intended Outcome 4

Students will develop a working expertise in at least 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 knowledge of their secondary subfield in a written and oral comprehensive examination after their second year of course work. Ninety percent of students will pass the comprehensive examination (as assessed by a team of three faculty members).

We have extensively reviewed the comprehensive examination procedures this past year.

Eight students took the examination this year. Seven students passed. The student who failed will retake the exam this coming August.

Intended Outcome 5

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

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

Seven GPIS PhD students were enrolled in the basic methods seminar this past year. All passed.

Nine GPIS students enrolled in the advanced research methods seminar this past year. All passed with a grade of B or better.

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

Two dissertations were completed this year. Both utilized appropriate methods for their subject matter.

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.

*We have extensively reviewed the comprehensive examination procedures this past year.
Eight students took the examination this year. Seven students passed. The student who failed will retake the exam this coming August.*

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

Two dissertations were completed this year. Both were effectively written. One has already been accepted for publication.

Intended Outcome 7

Students will effectively communicate orally.

Method for Assessing Outcome 7 and Criterion for Success: Students will make an effective oral presentation in their oral examinations to follow up their written comprehensive examinations and successfully pass an oral examination defending their dissertations.

*We have extensively reviewed the comprehensive examination procedures this past year.
Eight students took the oral examination this year. Seven students passed. The student who failed will retake the exam this coming August.*

Intended Outcome 8

Students will contribute to the scholarly body of knowledge in international relations.

Method for Assessing Outcome 8 and Criterion for Success: Students will successfully present important original research in their dissertations. Fifty percent of GPIS dissertations will be accepted for publication within five years of completion.

Of the two GPIS dissertations completed this year, one has already been accepted for publication.
Of the seven GPIS dissertations completed in the past five years, only two have so far been accepted for publication. None of these dissertations, however, were done more than

five years ago. Six of the seven were only completed in the past two years

Six of our seven PhD graduates have published articles or books.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 8 and Criterion for Success: Eight percent of GPIS students will present their material at a national professional conference before graduating.

GPIS students have a strong track record of conference participation. Forty-one of our fifty-nine current students (70%) have presented their work at conferences. We do not yet have sufficiently detailed record keeping for assessing participation in national conferences.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 8 and Criterion for Success: Forty percent of GPIS students will have an original piece of research accepted for publication before graduating.

Of our current seven PhD graduates, four were published before graduating (57 %). Fourteen of our fifty-nine current PhD students (24%) have already been published.

Intended Outcome 9

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

Method for Assessing Outcome 9 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 department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to refine our foreign language examination procedure. All of our graduates have demonstrated competence in at least one foreign language before graduation.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 9 and Criterion for Success: Students will pass at least two 300-level foreign language courses with a grade of "B" or better.