

International Studies B.A.

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Institutional Mission Reference

The Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (BAIS) offers a rigorous program of study that develops the intellectual and pre-professional skills of students. BAIS faculty reflect a wide range of teaching disciplines and specialties. The program furthers the University mission of internationalizing undergraduate education and offering a unique curriculum that will be attractive to international students. The faculty teaching in this program are committed to serving an ethnically diverse student body and promoting inter-cultural understanding.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported

The BAIS program supports the University goals:1. Ensuring high quality undergraduate academic programs2. Ensuring high quality teaching3. Promoting the discovery of new knowledge4. Enhancing international education5. Contributing to the enrichment of the University community6. Providing opportunities for student development outside the classroom. The BAIS program also supports Strategic Initiatives:1. Ensuring high quality, distinctive undergraduate programs2. Enhancing international education3. Supporting graduate study through the joint five-year BAIS/MAIS degree program4. Supporting area studies minors (Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East)

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results

Intended Outcome 1

Students will gain a detailed understanding of the central actors, issues, and challenges in the international arena.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: All students will complete courses in substantive or regional studies with an international focus; 80% of students will participate in a study abroad program; 30% of students will participate in MUN, MOAS, or Model Arab League.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1:

All students completed courses in substantive or regional studies with an international focus. Only 35 percent of students participated in a study abroad program. 30 percent of students participated in MUN, MOAS, or Model Arab League.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 1 to Improve Academic Program:

The curriculum sheet for the major was adjusted to promote study abroad. Students are encouraged to apply for Dean's Education Abroad Award. The director is working with the Study Abroad Office of the Dragas Center to coordinate the transfer of study abroad courses. A survey of courses offered throughout the university was completed to identify additional elective courses which would be appropriate for International Studies students.

Intended Outcome 2

Students will gain an appreciation for alternative theoretical perspectives in international studies and develop critical thinking skills.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: All students will complete core courses in international politics, international relations theory, and international political economy. The syllabi of all core courses in the program will be reviewed by a portfolio committee of three faculty members each year.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2:

All students did complete core courses in international politics, international relations theory, and international political economy. The syllabi of all core courses were reviewed by the program director.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 2 to Improve Academic Program:

A portfolio committee of three faculty members should be established to review syllabi of core courses in the major. Students are also required to complete a history course in international relations.

Intended Outcome 3

Students will develop effective writing communication skills.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: All students will earn scores of satisfactory or higher on their capstone research papers, as judged by a team of three faculty members. All students will pass the Exit Exam of Writing Proficiency, and 80% will pass on their first attempt.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3:

Only 60 percent of students earned scores of satisfactory or higher on their capstone research papers. Data on writing proficiency exam was not available.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 3 to Improve Academic Program:

The Capstone Research Seminar will be restructured to provide greater individual instruction in research and writing. A new process for selecting the instructor of the seminar has been established. All students are required to complete a methodology course.

Intended Outcome 4

Students will develop effective oral communication skills.

Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success: All students will give 30-minute oral presentations of their research in the Senior Seminar. All students will have the opportunity to participate in MUN, MOAS, and Model Arab League.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 4:

Students gave 15 minute oral presentations of their research in the Capstone Research Seminar. All students were afforded the opportunity to participate in MUN, MOAS, or Model Arab League.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 4 to Improve Academic Program:

More time will be set aside for oral presentations in the Capstone Research Seminar. Oral presentations have also been incorporated into some of the core courses in the major.

Intended Outcome 5

Students will develop effective research, analytical, and methodological skills.

Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success: All students will earn scores of satisfactory or higher on their capstone research papers, as judged by a team of three faculty members.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 5:

Only 60 percent of students earned scores of satisfactory or higher on their Capstone research papers.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 5 to Improve Academic Program:

Instruction in research methodologies will receive greater emphasis in the Capstone Research Seminar. Students will be required to revise/rewrite their research papers until they are deemed satisfactory.

Intended Outcome 6

Students will gain knowledge in multiple disciplines central to international studies.

Method for Assessing Outcome 6 and Criterion for Success: Students are required to complete courses in foreign language, geography, history, and political science. Students also have the opportunity to complete courses in communications, economics, international business, philosophy, sociology, and women's studies.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 6:

All students completed courses in foreign language, geography, history and political science. Students had the opportunity to complete courses in a range of other fields.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 6 to Improve Academic Program:

The list of approved courses was updated to provide a more comprehensive list of elective options.

Intended Outcome 7

Students will gain practical work skills.

Method for Assessing Outcome 7 and Criterion for Success: 75% of students will participate in at least one internship experience during their undergraduate careers.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 7:

Only 25 percent of students participated in an internship experience.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 7 to Improve Academic Program:

The BAIS director will work closely with the Career Advantage Program to identify internships related to international affairs.

Intended Outcome 8

Students will gain basic fluency in at least one foreign language.

Method for Assessing Outcome 8 and Criterion for Success: All students are required to study foreign language beyond the general education requirement of the University. Eighty percent of students will participate in a University-sanctioned study abroad program.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 8:

All students completed study in foreign language beyond the general education requirements of the university. Only 35 percent of students participated in a study abroad program.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 8 to Improve Academic Program:

The curriculum sheet for the major was updated to promote study abroad. Students were encouraged to apply for the Dean's Education Abroad Awards.

Intended Outcome 9

Students will develop effective computer skills and obtain familiarity with the Internet.

Method for Assessing Outcome 9 and Criterion for Success: All students will use a word processing program to prepare their term papers in all courses. References will demonstrate use of Internet sites.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 9:

All students used a word processing program to prepare their term papers and references demonstrated use of internet sites.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 9 to Improve Academic Program:

Classroom instruction will stress scholarly electronic resources and methodology courses will include a section on the internet.