

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Degree Requirements

Master of International Affairs (M.I.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

The program requires six courses which are designed to establish a base of knowledge in key subject areas which reflect the basic mission of the SIA. These courses will form the core curriculum for the M.I.A. This core curriculum is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in the ethical dimensions of international exchange, with skills essential to perform quantitative and qualitative analysis in cross-cultural contexts and with leadership training designed to understand and bridge the cultural differences. A minimum of 42 credits at the 400, 500 or 800 level will be required for completion of the program, at least 18 of which must be from courses at the 500 and 800 level. A minimum of 6 credits must be at the 500 level. Students are required to take 18 credits of core courses in: INTAF 506(3), INTAF 801(3), INTAF 802(3), INTAF 803(3), INTAF 804(3), and INTAF 890(3).

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
INTAF 506	International Economics: Principles, Policies, and Practices	3
INTAF 801	Actors, Institutions, and Legal Frameworks in International Affairs	3
INTAF 802	Foundations of Diplomacy and International Relations Theory	3
INTAF 803	Multi-sector and Quantitative Analysis	3
INTAF 804	Global Cultures and Leadership	3
INTAF 890	Colloquium	3
Electives		
Students will choose their remaining courses, with faculty guidance, from a substantial list of elective courses for a total of 21 credits. A list of approved elective courses is maintained by the graduate program office. The courses usually will be clustered around areas of concentration designated by the SIA faculty, but students also will be permitted to design an independent interdisciplinary curriculum with faculty approval. The areas of concentration, which will be pre-approved by the faculty, will take advantage of Penn State's rich graduate curriculum by aggregating in appropriate thematic clusters pre-existing and specially-created graduate-level classes.		21
Culminating Experience		
INTAF 594 or INTAF 595	Research Topics (Master's Paper) Internship	3
Total Credits		42

In addition to the core curriculum and elective courses, degree candidates must complete either:

- i. a master's paper; or
- ii. a supervised internship placement.

If the first option is chosen and the candidate opts to complete a paper, they must enroll in 3 credits of INTAF 594. The master's paper will involve integrating and showing mastery of the subject matter of the student's

curricular emphasis, and may also involve original research. If the second option is chosen, the candidate will enroll in 3 credits of INTAF 595. The student will participate in a supervised internship placement of sufficient depth and professionalism that will allow the student to experience the integration of their curricular studies in an actual professional environment. A reflective paper will be submitted as a part of this credit requirement.

In order to graduate, students also will need to demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English. Proficiency will be defined as follows:

1. four semesters of a Penn State language sequence or its equivalent (15 credits with a quality grade of a C or better using a 4.0 scale);
2. native acquisition, as shown by the candidate's personal history and approved by the SIA faculty; or
3. performance on a proficiency evaluation sufficient to equal four semesters of language learning: for this purpose, either Penn State's proficiency certification process or another pre-approved proficiency assessment may be used.