

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park, World Campus

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in International Politics, a minimum of 123 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	15-18
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	39

0-3 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 0-3 credits of GS General Education courses.

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if world language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PLSC 14	International Relations	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PLSC 7N	Contemporary Political Ideologies ¹	3
or PLSC 1	American Politics: Principles, Processes and Powers	
Select one of the following:		3
PLSC 3	Comparing Politics around the Globe	
PLSC 20		
PLSC 22		

Requirements for the Option

Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better

Select an option 30

¹ PLSC 7N is recommended for students choosing the National Security Option.

Requirements for the Option

International Relations Option (30 credits)

Available at the following campuses: University Park, World Campus

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PLSC 412	International Political Economy	3
or PLSC 481	Global Political Economy	
PLSC 418	International Relations Theory	3
or PLSC 442	American Foreign Policy	
Select 3-6 credits (no more than 3 credits below the 300 level) of the following:		3-6
HIST 120		
HIST 142N	History of Communism	
HIST 143N	History of Fascism and Nazism	
HIST 144	The World at War: 1939-1945	
HIST 173	Vietnam in War and Peace	
HIST 175	East Asia since 1800	
HIST 179	Latin-American History Since 1820	
HIST 181	Introduction to the Middle East	
HIST 192	Modern African History	
HIST 320	Contemporary World History and Issues	
HIST 420	Recent European History	
HIST 423		
HIST 427	Germany Since 1860	
HIST 430	Eastern Europe in Modern Times	
HIST/AFAM 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy	
HIST/AFAM 432	Between Nation and Empire: The Caribbean in the 20th Century	
HIST 434	History of the Soviet Union	
HIST 435	Topics in European History	
HIST 446	America Between the Wars	
HIST 447	Recent American History	
HIST 452		
HIST 454	American Military History	
HIST 460		
HIST 467	Latin America and the United States	
HIST 468	Mexico and the Caribbean Nations in the Twentieth Century	
HIST 473	The Contemporary Middle East	
HIST 479	History of Imperialism and Nationalism in Africa	
HIST 481	Modern Japan Since 1800	
HIST 486	China in Revolution	
Select 3-6 credits (no more than 3 credits below the 300 level) of the following:		3-6
ECON 102	Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy	

ECON 104	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy
ECON 333	International Economics
or IB 303	International Business Operations

Select 3-6 credits (no more than 3 credits below the 300 level) of the following:

GEOG 123	
GEOG 124	Elements of Cultural Geography
GEOG 128	Geography of International Affairs
GEOG 364	Spatial Analysis
GEOG 424	
GEOG 430	Human Use of Environment
GEOG 431	Geography of Water Resources
GEOG 438W	Human Dimensions of a Changing Climate
GEOG 444	Resource Governance in Africa
GEOG 463	Geospatial Information Management
GEOG 464	Advanced Spatial Analysis
GEOG 468	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 12 credits from one of the following: 12

400-level political science courses in International Relations, Comparative Politics, or Theory/Methodology (excluding courses taken to fulfill other requirements in the major) from an approved department list in consultation with an adviser

World language courses beyond the 12th-credit level ¹

¹ 9 of these credits must be at the 400 level. With adviser approval, all 12 credits may be below the 400 level, but must be in addition to the language proficiency for BA requirements.

National Security Option (30 credits)

Available at the following campuses: University Park, World Campus

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CRIM 406	Sociology of Deviance	3
SRA 111	Introduction to Security and Risk Analysis	3
SRA 211	Threat of Terrorism and Crime	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits of the following:		3
ECON 102	Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy	
ECON 104	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	
ECON 333	International Economics	
or IB 303	International Business Operations	
GEOG 123		
GEOG 124	Elements of Cultural Geography	
GEOG 128	Geography of International Affairs	
GEOG 364	Spatial Analysis	
GEOG 424		
GEOG 430	Human Use of Environment	
GEOG 431	Geography of Water Resources	
GEOG 438W	Human Dimensions of a Changing Climate	

GEOG 444	Resource Governance in Africa
GEOG 463	Geospatial Information Management
GEOG 464	Advanced Spatial Analysis
GEOG 468	
HIST 120	
HIST 142N	History of Communism
HIST 143N	History of Fascism and Nazism
HIST 144	The World at War: 1939-1945
HIST 173	Vietnam in War and Peace
HIST 175	East Asia since 1800
HIST 179	Latin-American History Since 1820
HIST 181	Introduction to the Middle East
HIST 192	Modern African History
HIST 320	Contemporary World History and Issues
HIST 420	Recent European History
HIST 423	
HIST 427	Germany Since 1860
HIST 430	Eastern Europe in Modern Times
HIST/AFAM 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
HIST/AFAM 432	Between Nation and Empire: The Caribbean in the 20th Century
HIST 434	History of the Soviet Union
HIST 435	Topics in European History
HIST 446	America Between the Wars
HIST 447	Recent American History
HIST 452	
HIST 454	American Military History
HIST 460	
HIST 467	Latin America and the United States
HIST 468	Mexico and the Caribbean Nations in the Twentieth Century
HIST 473	The Contemporary Middle East
HIST 479	History of Imperialism and Nationalism in Africa
HIST 481	Modern Japan Since 1800
HIST 486	China in Revolution

Select 6 credits of the following: 6

PLSC 412	International Political Economy
PLSC 418	International Relations Theory
PLSC/CRIMJ 439	The Politics of Terrorism
PLSC 442	American Foreign Policy
PLSC 481	Global Political Economy

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 12 credits from one of the following: 12

400-level political science courses in International Relations, Comparative Politics, or Theory/Methodology (excluding courses taken to fulfill other requirements in the major) from an approved department list in consultation with an adviser

World language courses beyond the 12th-credit level ¹

¹ 9 of these credits must be at the 400 level. With adviser approval, all 12 credits may be below the 400 level, but must be in addition to the language proficiency for BA requirements.

International Political Economy Option (30 credits)

Available at the following campuses: University Park, World Campus

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PLSC 412	International Political Economy	3
or PLSC 481	Global Political Economy	
PLSC 418	International Relations Theory	3
or PLSC 442	American Foreign Policy	
Select 9 credits (no more than 3 credits below the 300 level) of the following:		9
ECON 102	Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy	
ECON 104	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	
ECON 333	International Economics	
ECON 433	Advanced International Trade Theory and Policy	
ECON 434	International Finance and Open Economy Macroeconomics	
ECON 443	Economics of Law and Regulation	
ECON 444	Economics of the Corporation	
ECON 451	Monetary Theory and Policy	
ECON 471	Growth and Development	
ECON 472N	Russian Economic History	
IB 303	International Business Operations	
Select 3 credits of the following:		3
AFAM/HIST 431	Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy	
GEOG 123		
GEOG 124	Elements of Cultural Geography	
GEOG 128	Geography of International Affairs	
GEOG 364	Spatial Analysis	
GEOG 424		
GEOG 430	Human Use of Environment	
GEOG 431	Geography of Water Resources	
GEOG 438W	Human Dimensions of a Changing Climate	
GEOG 444	Resource Governance in Africa	
GEOG 463	Geospatial Information Management	
GEOG 464	Advanced Spatial Analysis	
GEOG 468		
HIST 120		
HIST 142N	History of Communism	
HIST 143N	History of Fascism and Nazism	
HIST 144	The World at War: 1939-1945	
HIST 173	Vietnam in War and Peace	
HIST 175	East Asia since 1800	
HIST 179	Latin-American History Since 1820	
HIST 181	Introduction to the Middle East	
HIST 192	Modern African History	
HIST 320	Contemporary World History and Issues	

HIST 420	Recent European History
HIST 423	
HIST 427	Germany Since 1860
HIST 430	Eastern Europe in Modern Times
HIST/AFAM 432	Between Nation and Empire: The Caribbean in the 20th Century
HIST 434	History of the Soviet Union
HIST 435	Topics in European History
HIST 446	America Between the Wars
HIST 447	Recent American History
HIST 452	
HIST 454	American Military History
HIST 460	
HIST 467	Latin America and the United States
HIST 468	Mexico and the Caribbean Nations in the Twentieth Century
HIST 473	The Contemporary Middle East
HIST 479	History of Imperialism and Nationalism in Africa
HIST 481	Modern Japan Since 1800
HIST 486	China in Revolution

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
 Select 12 credits from 400-level political science courses in International Relations, Comparative Politics, or Theory/Methodology (excluding courses taken to fulfill other requirements in the major) from an approved department list in consultation with an adviser 12

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

World Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one world language in addition to English. This proficiency must be demonstrated by either examination or course work. See the Placement Policy for Penn State World Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, World Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; world language credits in this category must be in a second world language in addition to English or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language). Credits must be selected from the list of approved courses.

World Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the University Cultural Diversity (US/IL) requirement.