

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

Program Description

This major, administered within the Department of Political Science, is designed to provide students with a broad, comprehensive education in international politics by offering students options in International Relations, International Political Economy, and Security Studies. While most of the required courses are in the areas of international and comparative politics, the curriculum includes courses in economics, geography, risk analysis, and history. The major provides an opportunity to study in detail a variety of crucial contemporary issues—conflict among and within nations, democratization, economic and political globalization, regional conflicts and the emerging importance of non-state actors—as well as analysis of foreign and economic policy making and security issues in the United States and other nations.

The major prepares students for career opportunities:

- with U.S. government executive agencies dealing with foreign affairs, international and homeland security, and the international economy;
- with relevant committees of the U.S. Congress;
- with multinational corporations, banks, and consulting firms; and
- with international organizations.

The major also provides preparation for law and business schools and for graduate study in political science and international relations.

What is International Politics?

International Politics is an interdisciplinary major focused on how power operates within and between states in the international arena. The program combines economics, history, and political science to examine topics such as human rights, ethnic conflict, terrorism, economic and political development and globalization, the environment, foreign and economic policy making, and national security. Students have the option to concentrate in either International Relations, International Political Economy, or National Security Studies.

You Might Like This Program If...

You are interested in learning about different cultures and political systems around the world and how their interactions create and are influenced by political and economic cooperation and conflict. This major is a good choice for students interested in national security, foreign policy, war, crime, and terrorism as well as in languages and history. International Relations is an exciting interdisciplinary major dealing with today's global problems and potential solutions.