

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIALIZATION AREAS

The BA Program offers several thematic specialization areas so that students may structure their curriculum based on specific topics in the field of international studies. Through specializations, students gain depth of knowledge in the discipline and acquire diverse skill sets with which to analyze the world. Indeed, the narrowing of interests and lenses through which students study international affairs proves useful within our degree program and translates into concrete skills that are vital in today's competitive and globalized job market.

Global Political Economy & International Politics

One of the most important aspects of modern international affairs is the complex interplay of political and economic dynamics on the global stage. Today's economy is integrating rapidly across international boundaries, and students of contemporary global affairs must have a clear appreciation for how this new integration affects economic prosperity, political stability, development, and social welfare. Courses in this specialization area prepare students for the complexities of the contemporary international economic environment and the ways in which societies, cultures, politics, and people shape the world. From theoretical perspectives on globalization to policy analysis, this specialization area provides students with a well-rounded background of major economic debates and concerns in international affairs.

– *Skills and Perspectives: Political Science, Political Economy, Economics*

International Development & Health

In recent years, no set of issues has emerged on the international agenda with more urgency than international poverty alleviation and global health. In little more than a decade, the AIDS pandemic threatened nearly 50 years of progress in human development. Protracted conflict and complex humanitarian crises have shown that development, health, social, political, and environmental stability go hand-in-hand and seldom respect national boundaries. Emerging diseases such as Zika threaten human security and economic prosperity. Security debates now focus on the provision of human security and building human capabilities as a key element in building peace. This specialization area offers an in-depth look at the intersection of 21st century development and health issues from both practical/policy-oriented and theoretical perspectives.

–*Skills and Perspectives: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Sociology, Public Health*

International Organizations, Security & Human Rights

Though concerns about international conflicts and security are not novel in international politics, some have argued that the 20th century was the most bloody and strife-ridden period in all of human history. In addition to two major world wars, other forms of violence including civil wars and ethnic conflicts have come to inform the age-old search for peace and stability. Beginning with the founding of the United Nations in 1948 and continuing in to the 21st century, the international community must confront these concerns, along with new and evolving challenges such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, which often pose barriers to lasting international peace. This specialization area explores the problems of violence on the world stage and the myriad ways in which states, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations seek to respond to the challenges of promoting peace, human rights, security and conflict resolution, both domestically and internationally.

–*Skills and Perspectives: Political Science, Law, Security Studies, Conflict Resolution*