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[Home](#) > Latin American Studies

Overview
Overview
Faculty
Program Activities
Curriculum
 Minor
 Why LASP?
SAIS Europe - Bologna, Italy
Featured Courses
Events Calendar
Our Alumni
Contact

Curriculum

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM (LASP) | MA Requirements

Latin American Studies Program Goals and Objectives ^[35]

Entering Class 2017-2018

MA students must take the equivalent of 16 non-language courses (64 credits). Those MA students who are approved for dual degree or advanced standing may only need to take 12 courses (48 credits) or 14 courses (56 credits) as approved by Academic Affairs.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CONCENTRATION

Students concentrating in Latin American Studies (LASP) must take the foundation course SA.810.700 Understanding Modern Latin American Politics (in their first fall semester), 16 credits of additional Latin American Studies courses and 4 credits of approved non-LASP coursework that complements their LASP courses. At least 12 credits of the credits applied to the concentration must start with the prefix SA.810.XXX.

LASP students are encouraged to group their coursework into suggested study tracks ^[36] to pursue certain career goals.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Students must complete 16 credits. The four required courses are:

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics (prerequisite or concurrent: Microeconomics)
- International Trade Theory (prerequisite: Microeconomics)
- International Monetary Theory (prerequisite: Macroeconomics)

If a student passes a waiver exam ^[37] in one of these areas, the student must take a replacement International Economics program course(s) to fulfill the concentration requirement.

Starting with the entering class of Fall 2017, students who pass Microeconomics in Pre-Term ^[38] will have the concentration reduced to 12 credits, but still must complete Macroeconomics, International Trade Theory, and International Monetary Theory (or a replacement course(s) if waiver exam(s) passed). The Pre-Term Microeconomics course is not for credit and is not factored into the GPA.

Beyond the requirements, many students choose to pursue an International Economics Specialization ^[39] in one of four areas of economics. Students may also choose to specialize in Emerging Markets ^[40].

Concentration GPA Requirement

Students must achieve a combined GPA of at least 2.67 in four (or three if Microeconomics is passed in Pre-Term) required International Economics program courses or they must retake the course(s) until a 2.67 concentration GPA is achieved. In the standard case, the concentration GPA will be the average of the grades of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, International Trade Theory, and International Monetary Theory.

If one or more of the four standard courses is waived, the school will use the highest grade(s) from any eligible replacement International Economics program course(s) to compute the International Economics concentration GPA.

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Students must complete one course from the list below.

- Statistical Methods for Business & Economics
- Econometrics (prerequisite Statistical Methods for Business & Economics)
- Applied Econometrics (prerequisite Econometrics)
- Macro Econometrics (prerequisite Econometrics)
- Risk Analysis and Modeling
- Quantitative Global Economics (prerequisite International Monetary Theory)
- Credit Markets & Credit Risk (prerequisite Corporate Finance)

Students may not double-count the same course toward the Quantitative Reasoning requirement

and as an International Economics concentration course and vice-versa.

If a student passes the statistics waiver exam, the student must take an alternate course from the list above to fulfill the Quantitative Reasoning requirement.

Starting with the entering class of Fall 2017, students who pass Statistical Methods for Business & Economics in Pre-Term ^[38] will have fulfilled the Quantitative Reasoning requirement. The Pre-Term course is not for credit and is not factored into the GPA.

CORE COURSES/EXAMS

All students must pass 2 core courses and/or exams from the subjects below. If the core courses/exams are not completed by the start of the final semester, the student no longer has the option of completing the exam and must enroll in the core course(s) for credit.

- American Foreign Policy Since World War II
- Comparative Politics
- Evolution of the International Systems
- Theories of International Relations

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

LASP MA candidates must pass the language exams to demonstrate proficiency in either Spanish or Portuguese. Those who successfully complete the oral and written exams in one language are encouraged to enroll for study in the other language. All non-native English speakers are required to pass an English placement exam upon entering the school. Native speakers of Spanish or Portuguese must demonstrate proficiency in a second language, which can include English.

CAPSTONE

Latin American Studies concentrators must complete ONE of the following capstone requirements:

- Internship and Report: An academic or professional internship relevant to program course work—all internships completed through the LASP Summer Internship Program satisfy this requirement.* Students must subsequently submit a report on the experience.**
- LASP Oral Exam: Students who are unable to complete an internship will be required to pass a 30–45 minute oral exam with LASP faculty at the end of their final semester.
- MA Oral Exam (to compete for honors—if eligible)

* If unable to participate in the LASP Summer Internship Program, students may secure their own internships to be completed during the summer or during their second year at SAIS. These internships must be no less than eight weeks in duration and are subject to departmental approval.

** The internship written report should be three double-spaced pages in length and will be due by the beginning of the student's last semester at the school. The report is intended to help students articulate what was gained through the experience in the context of a future job interview--it should thus delve into a thematic component of the internship rather than highlight duties/responsibilities.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR

[Entering Class 2017-2018](#) ^[41]

[Entering Class 2016-2017](#) ^[42]

[Entering Class 2015-2016](#) ^[43]

[Entering Class 2014-2015](#) ^[44]

Entering Class 2013-2014 (see 2012-2013 requirements)

[Entering Class 2012-2013](#) ^[45]

[Entering Class 2011-2012](#) ^[46]

[Entering Class 2010-2011](#) ^[47]

[Entering Class 2009-2010](#) ^[48]

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