Latin American Studies Program Goals

The Latin American Studies Program (LASP) concentrators gain a broad understanding of Latin America as a global player while simultaneously developing functional expertise through a policy-oriented curriculum that integrates a practical approach to learning. A diverse group of countries richly endowed with natural resources, Latin America provides the perfect laboratory to learn not only about the challenges faced by emerging economies, but also about key international policy areas such as energy, emerging markets and sustainable development, as they apply to the region and beyond. LASP students gain expertise in their functional area of interest with an applied regional focus through a choice of five tracks of study: (1) Latin American Political Economy; (2) Emerging Markets/International Finance; (3) Energy, Resources & Environment; (4) International Development Policy & Institutions; and (5) Foreign/Public Policy & Security Challenges.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will understand the political, economic and social dynamics of the Latin American region that provide the basis for professional advancement in areas such as political and sovereign risk analysis, applied international development strategies, foreign policy, international trade and finance, and security;
2. Gain functional expertise in a chosen international policy track as it applies to Latin American countries in the context of emerging global players;
3. Develop the analytical tools required to understand, evaluate and devise policy approaches to current challenges and opportunities in Latin America through a policy-oriented curriculum, practitioner participation in courses and seminars, research practicums and study trips abroad;
4. Acquire career-building practical experience through a professional internship, most often carried out through the LASP-sponsored summer internship program in Latin America, which supports 10-week internships in the field (capstone); and
5. Develop the necessary Spanish and/or Portuguese language skills to perform successfully in the professional arena, whether working in Latin America or focusing on the region from any part of the world.