



Korea Studies Program Goals

Korea Studies concentrators will develop a comprehensive understanding of the Korean Peninsula: the economic and political development of the two Koreas, inter-Korean relations, and the peninsula's foreign relations with its immediate neighbors and with the US. Effectively designed courses and co-curricular activities enable students to analyze South Korea's relationship with North Korea and the role that inter-Korean relations play on a larger scale. An understanding of the Korean people's significance both regionally and politically, as well as the implications the Korean case may have beyond its borders, is a critical component of the program. Students reach proficiency in Korean language.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will have a comprehensive understanding of the political, economic, social and cultural issues surrounding the Korean Peninsula;
2. Apply the South Korean case to other international arenas, assessing the implications that South Korea's successful example of rapid economic development and authentic bottom-up democratization may have for other developing countries;
3. Obtain a critical understanding of the international political economy within East Asia through the lens of South Korea. As the position and contribution of South Korea continues to rise within the region, students will examine South Korea as a middle power through in-depth analysis of both regional dynamics and the role the nation plays in general global dynamics;
4. Gain an in-depth knowledge of inter-Korean relations—not just South Korea as an isolated country. The history of the two Koreas relationship, dynamics surrounding the potential threat of a nuclear North Korea, the challenges dominating the current situation, and the effect this relationship has on the region, will be examined from various perspectives;
5. Reach proficiency in Korean language at the intermediate-mid level or higher. This proficiency encompasses reading, writing, speaking and listening in Korean, skills necessary for careers including, but not limited to, research, academia, government, politics or consulting in Korean affairs; and
6. Gain experience writing policy suggestion memos and pragmatic proposals which will be applicable to their academic and professional ambitions.