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Curriculum

South Asia Studies | MA Academic Requirements

South Asia Studies Program Learning Goals and Objectives ^[22]

Entering Class 2017-2018

MA students must take the equivalent of 16 non-language courses (64 credits) in order to graduate. Those 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.

SOUTH ASIA STUDIES ^[23]

Students concentrating in South Asia Studies must take at least 4 courses within this program. One of those courses must be SA.790.820 Comparative Political & Economic Development in South Asia and must be taken in the first year of study. Students starting at SAIS Europe must take the course in DC.

ASIAN STUDIES ^[24]

South Asia Studies concentrators must also fulfill the requirements for the field of Asian Studies, which include 2 Asian Studies area courses outside of South Asia Studies.

Students in South Asia Studies also have the option of pursuing a specialization in the International Relations of Asia ^[25] (AsiaIR).

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 ^[26] 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 ^[27] 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 ^[28] in one of four areas of economics. Students may also choose to specialize in Emerging Markets ^[29].

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 ^[27] 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. South Asia Studies concentrators must pass Comparative Politics as one of their core requirements prior to the start of their third semester. 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

South Asia Studies MA candidates must pass exams to demonstrate proficiency in Hindi-Urdu or Persian (Farsi). All non-native English speakers are required to pass an English placement exam upon entering the school. Native Hindi-Urdu or Persian (Farsi) speakers must pass proficiency in a second language which can include English.

CAPSTONE

South Asia Studies concentrators must complete ONE of the following capstones:

- South Asia Studies Oral Exam.
- MA Oral Exam (to compete for honors—if eligible)

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR

Entering Class 2016-2017 ^[30]

Entering Class 2015-2016 ^[31]

Entering Class 2014-2015 ^[32]

Entering Class 2013-2014 ^[33]

Entering Class 2012-2013 ^[34]

Entering Class 2011-2012 ^[35]

[Entering Class 2010-2011](#) ^[36]

[Entering Class 2009-2010](#) ^[37]

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