Strategic Studies

International Staff Ride 2014

In March 2014, fifty students and faculty will travel to Belgium and France to study the conclusion of World War I and its aftermath.

More...

Curriculum

STRATEGIC STUDIES | M.A. Requirements

Strategic Studies Program Learning Goals and Objectives

Entering Class 2013-2014

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 or 14 courses as approved by Academic Affairs.

STRATEGIC STUDIES (STRAT)

Students concentrating in Strategic Studies (STRAT) must take a minimum of 3 courses within this program. One of those courses must be Strategy and Policy (SA.660.740) and must be taken in their first semester.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IR)

Students must also fulfill the general requirements for International Relations (IR) which includes 3 additional courses within IR from two IR areas other than STRAT. These areas include:
IR students studying at SAIS Europe must take at least three IR courses in Washington with the exception of dual-degree or advanced-standing students, who must take at least two IR courses in Washington.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Students must complete 4 courses within this program.
- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics (prerequisite or concurrent Microeconomics)
- International Trade Theory (prerequisite Microeconomics)
- International Monetary Theory (prerequisite Macroeconomics)

Eligible students who pass the waiver exams in these subjects or who pass Micro and/or Macro in Pre-Term must replace those courses with alternate economics courses. Many students choose to pursue an International Economics Specialization in one of four areas of economics and therefore use electives to meet these requirements. Students may also choose to specialize in Emerging Markets.

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
- Corporate Finance (prerequisite or concurrent Microeconomics)
- Quantitative Methods in International Relations (prerequisite Statistical Methods for Business & Economics)

Students may not double-count a Quantitative Reasoning requirement as one of the four required International Economics courses and vice-versa. Eligible students who pass the statistics waiver exam or pass the statistics course in Pre-Term are still required to take an alternate Quantitative Reasoning course from the list above.

CORE COURSES/EXAMS

All SAIS students must pass 2 core exams and/or courses. STRAT concentrators must pass Theories of International Relations as one of their core requirements prior to the start of their third semester. If the second core is not completed by the start of the final semester, a student must enroll in second core course.
- American Foreign Policy Since World War II
- Comparative National Systems
- Evolution of the International Systems
- Theories of International Relations

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

MA candidates must pass exams to demonstrate proficiency in a second language. This language must be offered at SAIS. Students whose native language is not English may use English as their proficiency language. All non-native English speakers are required to pass an English placement exam upon entering SAIS, even if not using English for proficiency.
CAPSTONE

Strategic Studies concentrators must complete ONE of the following capstones:

1. Successful completion of Strategic Studies Research Seminar (SA.660.751)
2. Faculty certification of a project, as nominated by a faculty member and approved by the Director and Assoc. Director of the Program
3. An oral exam conducted by two Strategic Studies faculty members at the end of the final semester
4. MA Oral Exam (to compete for honors—if eligible)

Students concentrating in Strategic Studies may not pursue an additional concentration beyond International Economics. For further information, please read the department’s statement on dual concentrations.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR

Entering Class 2012-2013
Entering Class 2011-2012
Entering Class 2010-2011
Entering Class 2009-2010

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Legal
Employment
Student Right to Know
Johns Hopkins University