

New Program Proposal

BA International Relations

General Education Requirements

Majors must satisfy the university and college general education requirements. Political science courses may be used to satisfy the social sciences requirement. The foreign language requirement for the B.A. degree may be satisfied in any language.

Departmental Honors

The department awards honors to students having a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 in the major, a minimum overall GPA of 3.2 (except in extraordinary circumstances), and successfully completed an honors thesis, project, or report.

Degree Requirements

Bachelor of Arts in International Relations

All majors must complete at least 15 hours in Political Science at the 3000 level or above.

Core Courses		
POL SCI 1800	World Politics	3
POL SCI 1500	Introduction To Comparative Politics	3
POL SCI 1820	Contemporary International Relations: Challenges and Opportunities of the 21st Century	3
POL SCI 2000	Political Analysis	3
POL SCI 3950	Senior Seminar In Political Science	3
International Relations		12
Select four of the following:		
POL SCI 2820	United States Foreign Policy	

POL SCI 2510	The Politics of European Union	
POL SCI 2850	Gender, Power & International Politics	
POL SCI 3800	Media, Film, and International Politics	
POL SCI 3830	International Political Economy	
POL SCI 3850	International Organizations And Global Problem-	
POL SCI 3860	Studies In War And Peace	
POL SCI 3880	African Diasporas: International Relations,	
POL SCI 3890	Studies In International Relations	
POL SCI 3900	Special Readings (with consent of instructor and	
POL SCI 4850	International Law	
Comparative Politics		9
Select three of the following:		
POL SCI 2500	Comparing Different Worlds	
POL SCI 2530	Political Systems Of South America	
POL SCI 2540	Political Systems Of Mexico, Central America And The	
POL SCI 2550	East Asian Politics	
POL SCI 2580	African Politics	
POL SCI 2590	Globalization: Prospects and Problems	
POL SCI 3500	The Politics of the Middle East: International and	
POL SCI 3570	Gender, Ethnicity and Public Policy	
POL SCI 3590	Women and Leadership World-Wide: Breaking the	
POL SCI 4510	Comparative Public Policy And Administration	
POL SCI 4520	Mega-Cities and Diasporas: Understanding Global	
Total Hours		36

It is recommended that majors take POL SCI 1500, POL SCI 1800, POL SCI 1820, and POL SCI 2000 as early as possible since these courses are designed to provide

a substantive foundation as well as conceptual and analytical tools for subsequent course work.

Majors are strongly encouraged to broaden their academic experience by including relevant curricular experiences including study abroad, and minors or certificates in areas such as economics and foreign languages.

B.A. degree students may take a maximum of 3 hours of political science on a satisfactory/ unsatisfactory basis; this can include any course except the four required courses in the core curriculum.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

None

Rationale

The Political Science Department is proposing a BA in International Relations as a way to increase enrollment for the university, as well as meet an academic need for traditional, international, and military students. The department has spent several months determining the need for this program. We administered surveys to current UMSL students and advisors at East Central and Jefferson College which indicated a strong interest in a BA in International Relations. We also had conversations with current UMSL students; prospective students; the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs for STLCC Forest Park; and UMSL's Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Admissions Representatives, International Admission Recruiters, Director of Community College Relations, College of Arts and Sciences' Associate Dean and Advisors, and Chair of Military and Veteran's Studies. In these conversations there was a consistent and overwhelming message that there is demand for a BA in International Relations. Currently, there are only three students majoring in Political Science/Public Policy who are international students. This is a population with great potential for enrollment in an BA in International Relations. Both the recruiters for international students and the students themselves have emphasized the demand for such a program. Research on degree preferences for international students has also indicated that from 2008-2012 International Relations has been the 4th highest enrolled degree area for international students studying in the US, UK, and Australia (Hanover Research, 2014). Thus, we see this as a growth opportunity for the university and the Political Science Department. International Relations is also a field of interest for military students, another population the university is actively recruiting, and one that is underrepresented in Political Science. The Chair of Military and Veteran's Studies believes that

this would be a popular degree for military students. The Million Records Project (Cate, 2014) found that for a million students who used their GI benefits from 2002-2010, 79.2% attended public institutions, and 10.8% of initial bachelor's degrees for those students were in social sciences (the 2nd most popular field); so, the BA in International Relations presents an opportunity to enroll more military students in Political Science at UMSL. We have also evaluated programs in the area. The only two schools to offer a BA in International Relations are Webster University and Lindenwood University. The BA in International Relations at Webster University is the 5th highest enrollment undergraduate program in the College of Arts and Sciences at Webster, and at \$650/credit hour their tuition rates are much higher than UMSL's. At \$453/credit hour, Lindenwood's tuition is also higher than UMSL's rate of \$336. In addition to our tuition advantage, the Political Science Department has internationally recognized scholars in international relations and comparative politics whose expertise and research will bolster our program. Having confirmed students in the region are interested in this degree and that we have tuition and expertise advantages, we project that we would be highly competitive in the market. Although the BA in International Relations presents opportunity for growth, the department can offer this degree program using resources currently in place. We hope to maximize efficiency and increase enrollment for the Political Science Department while providing an outstanding academic opportunity for students. References: Cate, C.A. (2014). Million Records Project: Research from Student Veterans of America. Student Veterans of America, Washington, DC. Hanover Research. (June 2014). Popular Programs for International Students. Retrieved from <http://www.hanoverresearch.com/media/Popular-Programs-for-International-Students.pdf>