International Studies

Objectives
The overall goals of the program are to enrich, complement, and coordinate departmental offerings and provide a range of skills for students preparing for careers in which knowledge of foreign cultures and understanding of global processes are important. These goals were developed by the International Studies Committee and support the University’s mission by enhancing students’ knowledge of the world.

Global Affairs and International Development:
To provide classes that broaden students’ knowledge of international issues, processes, and institutions.
To focus students’ attention on the trend toward globalization and the effects of this phenomenon.
To help students understand the connections between politics and economics, particularly as these pertain to development efforts in the third world.
To promote critical thinking about international affairs by developing students’ written and oral communication skills.
To encourage students’ knowledge and understanding of the world by requiring foreign language competency.
To broaden students’ international experience by strongly encouraging study abroad.

InterCultural Studies:
To provide classes that promote students’ sensitivity to different cultures, traditions, and beliefs as well as their historical development.
To help students understand the impact of culture on international relations.
To promote critical thinking about international affairs by developing students’ written and oral communication skills.
To deepen students’ knowledge and understanding of foreign cultures by strongly encouraging study abroad.

European Studies:
To provide classes that enhance students’ understanding of European culture, politics and institutions, especially the European Union.
To help students understand Europe’s role in the world.
To promote critical thinking skills by developing students’ written and oral communication skills.
To deepen students’ understanding of European culture by strongly encouraging study abroad.

Russian Studies Learning Goals
To provide a range of classes that acquaint students with Russian society, politics, and culture.
To acquaint students with the substantial changes that have taken place in Russia and the countries of the former Soviet Union since the end of communism and Russia’s new role in the world.
To promote critical thinking regarding the changes in Russia and its role in the world by developing students’ written and oral communication skills.

**Mission**

The mission of International Studies (INS) is to provide an interdisciplinary focus on international issues beyond that of traditional individual academic disciplines. The mission statement was developed by the International Studies Committee. Its connection to the University's mission is especially evident with respect to its link to the world. Students in the international studies program through their focus on international issues, study of foreign languages, and study abroad are especially aware of the numerous ways in which international issues affect the nation, region, and the state. The learning goals for this program reflect the mission of International Studies which is to provide an interdisciplinary focus beyond that of traditional academic disciplines. Students take a variety of courses chosen in consultation with the director of the program and consistent with the four categories specified for elective courses: arts and literature, politics and society, economics and environment, belief systems.