**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Degree Overview**

International Relations (IR) is an interdisciplinary major focusing on the changing political, economic, and cultural relations within a globalized system. The program explores how global, regional, and domestic factors influence relations between actors on the world stage. Students are prepared for future careers, civic engagement, and lifelong learning with strong analytical, writing, research and presentation skills steeped in theory, history, and practice.

Our faculty offers courses in theory and regional/thematic issue-areas that meet the diverse needs and preferences of students. Examples of our student best practices include the development of individual and group projects in close consultation with faculty. Outcomes of such training in research and presentation skills are evident not only in classes including the culminating senior thesis experience (IR 550), but also in student participation in IR conferences at both regional and national levels. Our students have the opportunity to publish their original research papers in the Department’s *International Relations Journal*.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

Courses for the Bachelor of Arts in International Relations have three objectives:

1. To impart knowledge of basic concepts, theories and methods in international relations
2. To develop in each student at least one area of special individual competence in international relations
3. To train students in research, writing, analytical, and presentation/communication skills

While integrating liberal arts educational goals, the program seeks to also develop marketable skills appropriate to the field. Utilizing the extensive course offerings in IR and other departments, students are encouraged to develop specializations within geographical, functional (e.g., international political economy), problem-oriented (e.g., arms control), theoretical/methodological, and other categories. The emphasis on elective courses of study requires students to consult with an advisor every semester.

**International Relations (B.A.) — 43 Units**

**Core (19 units)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IR 104</td>
<td>Introduction to World Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR 308</td>
<td>Fundamentals of International Relations Theories, Issues, and Perspectives</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR 309GW</td>
<td>International Relations Analysis and Application - GWAR</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR 310</td>
<td>U.S. Foreign Policy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR 312</td>
<td>Introduction to International Political Economy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives (18 Units)**

Students are required to complete 18 elective units related to international relations. Twelve units of coursework must have an IR prefix or be cross-listed with IR. Six additional units may be taken outside of the department upon approval of a major advisor. Elective units must be upper-division courses (300-level or above) with the exception of language courses taken in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

**Culminating Requirements (6 Units)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IR 550</td>
<td>Senior Thesis in International Relations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Complementary Studies**

Twelve units of complementary studies are required of all candidates for the Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations. These units must come from courses bearing a prefix other than IR, and not cross-listed with IR.

International Relations majors are offered several pathways toward completing this requirement, each of which is designed to facilitate graduation in a timely manner. International Relations majors may, with the approval of an International Relations advisor, elect to apply 12 units in a single foreign language of their choosing, courses taken in an approved study abroad program (e.g., CSU Study Abroad), courses taken as part of a second major, a minor or a certificate, and courses in a related discipline. Related disciplines typically include: political science, sociology, anthropology, environmental studies, geography, global health, or journalism.

Up to six units of a single language or six upper division units of complementary studies may, with the approval of a departmental advisor, also be counted as International Relations electives in fulfillment of major requirements.

**Note:** Courses fulfilling the IR major core requirement may not be taken on a CR/NC basis.

**General Education Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Course Level</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Area Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written English Communication</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Science</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Science</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts or Humanities</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>C1 or C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences: US History</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences: US &amp; CA Government</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) to be awarded by the California legislation SB 1440 (2009) mandated the creation of the Global Studies (“similar” major) for students earning the ADT in Global Studies. This degree program is an approved pathway for students earning the ADT in Global Studies.

For students with an AA-T in Social Sciences, choose the ENG 105 as your first English course and Strengthen lower-division preparation for the major.

Students who have earned an ADT should seek advising in the major department during the first semester of attendance.

General Advising Information for Transfer Students
1. Before transfer, complete as many lower-division requirements or electives for this major as possible.
2. The following courses are not required for admission but are required for graduation. Students are strongly encouraged to complete these units before transfer; doing so will provide more flexibility in course selection after transfer. 
   • a course in U.S. History
   • a course in U.S. & California Government

For information about satisfying the requirements described in (1) and (2) above at a California Community College (CCC), please visit http://www.assist.org. Check any geographically accessible CCCs; sometimes options include more than one college. Use ASSIST to determine:

   • Which courses at a CCC satisfy any lower-division major requirements for this major;

Remedial courses are not transferable and do not apply to the minimum 60 units/90 quarters required for admission.
Additional units for courses that are repeated do not apply to the
minimum 60 units required for upper-division transfer (for example, if
a course was not passed on the first attempt or was taken to earn a
better grade).

Before leaving the last California Community College of attendance,
obtain a summary of completion of lower-division General Education
units (IGETC or CSU GE Breadth). This is often referred to as a GE
certification worksheet. SF State does not require delivery of this
certification to Admissions, but students should retain this document for
verifying degree progress after transfer.

Credit for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or
College-Level Examination Program courses: AP/IB/CLEP credit is
not automatically transferred from the previous institution. Units are
transferred only when an official score report is delivered to SF State.
Credit is based on the academic year during which exams were taken.
Refer to the University Bulletin in effect during the year of AP/IB/CLEP
examination(s) for details regarding the award of credit for AP/IB/CLEP.

Students pursuing majors in science, technology, engineering, and
mathematics (STEM) disciplines often defer 6-9 units of lower-division
general education in Areas C and D until after transfer to focus on
preparation courses for the major. This advice does not apply to students
pursuing associate degree completion before transfer.

Transferring From Institutions Other Than CCCs
or CSUs

Review SF State’s lower-division General Education requirements.
Note that, as described below, the four basic skills courses required for
admission meet A1, A2, A3, and B4 in the SF State GE pattern. Courses
that fulfill the remaining areas of SF State’s lower-division GE pattern are
available at most two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

Of the four required basic skills courses, a course in critical thinking
(GE A3) may not be widely offered outside the CCC and CSU systems.
Students should attempt to identify and take an appropriate course no
later than the term of application to the CSU. To review more information
about the A3 requirement, please visit http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/
undergraduate-education/general-education/lower-division/#AAEL.

Waiting until after transfer to take a single course at SF State that meets
both US and CA/local government requirements may be an appropriate
option, particularly if transferring from outside of California.

All Students Must Meet the Transfer Eligibility
Requirements Outlined Below for Admission.

For more information, visit the Undergraduate Admissions section.

• Complete 60 or more transferable semester units or 90 or more
  quarter units
• Earn a college grade point average of 2.0 or better in all transferable
courses. Non-local area residents may be held to a higher GPA
standard.
• Be in good standing at the last college or university attended
• Complete 30-semester units (45-quarter units) of general education,
  including four basic skills courses:
  a. One course in oral communication (same as CSU GE Area A1)
  b. One course in written composition (same as CSU GE Area A2)
  c. One course in critical thinking (same as CSU GE Area A3)
  d. One course in mathematics or quantitative reasoning (same as
     CSU GE Area B4)
• The four basic skills courses and a minimum of 60 transferable
  semester units (90-quarter units) must be completed by the spring
  semester prior to fall admission, or by the fall semester prior to spring
  admission. Earn a “C-” or better grade in each basic skills course.