



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

International Affairs (M.A.)

Major Field Concentration: Comparative and Regional Studies

Department Website: <http://www.american.edu/sis/>

1. Learning Outcomes

- (1) Describe and distinguish among the major schools of thought in international relations and comparative politics, and be able to apply these theories to explain international, regional, and country specific phenomena.
- (2) Develop and execute research projects that integrate theory and empirics, and develop analytical skills.
- (3) Attain in-depth substantive knowledge in a 'related field'.
- (4) Develop their oral and analytical skills so they can clearly and effectively convey their knowledge.
- (5) Speak, write, and read a foreign language at a level that allows research and effective communication.
- (6) Develop the skills to function effectively in a professional and/or academic environment consistent with the students' knowledge and training.

2. Assessment Plan

Measures	Target	Learning Outcomes	Cycle and Reviewers
Direct Measure – Substantial Research Papers (SRP). Faculty members will supervise the SRP research using a rubric of specific criteria. Evaluations will be reported under: (1) distinction (2) pass (3) fail	80% to attain ‘pass with minor revisions’	Outcomes 1, 2, 3.	Annual – SRP guidelines to be reviewed based on results. Review to be conducted by an SRP Committee, in consultation with student representatives.
Direct Measure: Oral Exam Administered based on guidelines developed by faculty. Evaluation reported under the following categories – Distinction; Pass; fail.	80% must attain ‘pass’.	Outcome 4	Every Three Years – review by faculty of Oral exam process; Focus Group Meeting with students to assess effectiveness – every three years.
Internship	80% must receive positive evaluation from internship sponsor. Positive means a score of 3 and above in a range from 1-5.	Outcome, 6	Every Four Years – Faculty consultation with SIS Internship Office and CRS; Focus Group Meeting with students every two years.
Test by AU’s Language Resource Center; test by accredited language instructor; prior degree in language	100% certified as proficient	Outcome 5	Every Three Years – Faculty Review and Consultation with Language Resource Center
Oral Comprehensive Exam; SRP	80% must be evaluated as ‘satisfactory’.	Outcome 3	Every Three Years. Faculty Review; Focus Group Meetings with students.