



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, D C

## **International Peace & Conflict Resolution (M.A.)**

Department Website: <http://www1.sis.american.edu/academics/fieldofstudy/ipcr.htm>

### **1. Learning Outcomes: Students will:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts and methods in peace and conflict resolution.
2. Acquire knowledge in an area of concentration (stream) within their degree program.
3. Develop and execute research projects integrating theory and analysis.
4. Demonstrate their writing and speaking skills so they can clearly and effectively convey their knowledge.
5. Demonstrate the capacity to speak, write and read a foreign language.
6. Apply concepts and theories from international economics to issues of peace and mass violence.

**2. Assessment Measures and Schedule**

Learning Outcomes	Measures	Target	Schedule and Use of Information
<p><b>Outcome 1</b> Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts and methods in peace and conflict resolution.</p>	<p><b>Measure 1</b> Direct: Successful completion of term papers, examinations and conceptual presentations as required in SIS 607, 609, 606 and 610 (IPCR core courses) Specific criteria need to be developed here. Indirect: Feedback from students at IPCR Annual Retreats and Town Hall Meetings, specifically on the effectiveness of the core courses in imparting the basics of the field.</p>	<p>100% of graduates should demonstrate adequate or better understanding and knowledge. This is demonstrated by successful completion of the core courses and by passing the comprehensive exam which is a section in the SRP or thesis.</p>	<p>Data is collected at the end of each semester for the direct measures and annually for the indirect measures. Data will be reviewed by IPCR core faculty at subsequent meetings.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2</b> Acquire knowledge in an area of concentration (stream) within their degree program.</p>	<p>Students are now required to complete the IPCR CAP (Candidate Academic Plan) form which lays out the courses and rationale for their area of concentration. The development of Learning Outcomes for each area of concentration (now underway) will enable the development of measures to assess this Outcome.</p>	<p>100% of graduates are required to declare and complete an area of concentration (related field, area of concentration, or unique concentration) as part of their degree program.</p>	<p>CAP forms are completed by first year students during the Spring or Summer semester with the advice of the IPCR Graduate Advisor.</p>

<p>Outcome 3 Students will be able to develop and execute research projects integrating theory and data analysis. We are currently developing a statement of more specific learning outcomes or competencies in research that students are expected to acquire.</p>	<p>Direct: Assessment of the quality of Substantial Research Papers and Theses: Faculty supervisors will rate SRPs and Theses on a 5-point scale on the quality of integrating theory and data analysis from outstanding (5) to satisfactory (1). Indirect: Feedback from students at IPCR Annual Retreat and Town Hall Meeting, specifically on the research experience.</p>	<p>100% of graduates will distribute on the 5-point scale with 75% in the very good to outstanding categories: 5. Outstanding 4. Excellent 3. Very Good 2. Good 1. Satisfactory</p>	<p>Data is collected at the end of each semester for the direct measures and annually for the indirect measures. Data will be reviewed by IPCR core faculty at subsequent meetings.</p>
<p>Outcome 4 Demonstrate their writing and speaking skills so they can clearly and effectively convey their knowledge. We are currently developing a set of more specific generic or job competencies that will in part elaborate this general learning outcome.</p>			
<p>Outcome 5 Demonstrate the capacity to speak, write and read a foreign language.</p>			
<p>Outcome 6 Apply concepts and theories from international economics to issues of peace and mass violence.</p>	<p>This outcome is currently assessed by the completion of SIS 696, Economics of Violence and Peace or related courses in Economics. There is a need to develop more specific learning outcomes.</p>		

