



International Affairs (M.A.): U.S. Foreign Policy

Department Website: <http://www1.sis.american.edu/academics/graduateprograms/ma.htm>

1. Learning Outcomes: Masters students graduating from the U.S. Foreign Policy program will be able to:

Outcome 1 (Theory): Describe and distinguish among the major schools of thought in USFP and exhibit ability to apply them to explain foreign policy events.
Outcome 2 (Institutions and Processes): Describe and distinguish among the institutions and processes at the core of foreign policy decision making and exhibit ability to apply them to explain foreign policy events.
Outcome 3 (History): Describe the major continuities and changes in US foreign relations since 1789, but especially since World War II.
Outcome 4 (Economics): Apply concepts and theories from international economics to explain the workings of and issues of USFP.
Outcome 5 (Contemporary debates): Analyze contemporary foreign policy debates and issues.
Outcome 6 (Professional skills): Demonstrate selected professional skills (e.g., analyzing policy issues, writing policy memos, giving a policy briefing).
Outcome 7 (Research & Writing): Execute research projects that integrate theory and empirics and analytical skills and write their findings in a clear and effective manner.

Other learning outcomes for all SIS graduate students—but outside of our field control:

Outcome 8: (Language) Proficiency in a foreign language.

Outcome 9: (Concentration) Students can chose a concentration in national security policy or in a related field (drawing on courses from International Politics, Comparative and Regional Studies, International Communication, International Peace and Conflict Resolution, International Development, International Economic Policy, Global Environmental Politics).

2. Assessment Plan

Measures	Learning Outcomes	Target	Schedule and Use of Information by SIS US Foreign Policy Faculty
Measure 1 (direct): SRPs and Masters Theses	Outcome 7 (Research and Writing)	100% doing superior or good work	Outcome 7: faculty will review at the end of every spring semester.
Measure 2 (direct): Course research products, professional exercises, and exams.	Outcome 1(Theory) Outcome 2 (Institutions and Processes) Outcome 3 (History) Outcome 4 (Economics) Outcome 5 (Contemporary debates) Outcome 6 (Professional skills)	100% of students exhibit basic knowledge of theory, institutions and process, history and economics	Outcome 1: review spring 2010 (completed). Outcome 2: review spring 2010 (completed). Outcome 3: review spring 2011. Outcome 4: review spring 2011. Outcome 5: review spring 2011. Outcome 6: review spring 2011.
Measure 3 (indirect): Course evaluations for required courses.	Outcome 1(Theory) Outcome 2 (Institutions and Processes) Outcome 3 (History) Outcome 4 (Economics)	75% of students indicate that the learning objectives for the course are clear and that the assignments contribute to meeting those objectives.	Outcome 1: review spring 2010 (completed). Outcome 2: review spring 2010 (completed). Outcome 3: review spring 2011. Outcome 4: review spring 2011.
Measure 4 (indirect): Student focus groups	Outcome 1(Theory) Outcome 2 (Institutions and Processes) Outcome 3 (History) Outcome 4 (Economics) Outcome 5 (Contemporary debates) Outcome 6 (Professional skills) Outcome 7 (Research and Writing)	Explore students' perspectives about where the program is meeting its objectives, and where it needs improvement, as well as other student concerns.	Outcome 1: review annually in April. Outcome 2: review annually in April. Outcome 3: review annually in April. Outcome 4: review annually in April. Outcome 5: review annually in April. Outcome 6: review annually in April. Outcome 7 review annually in April. .

