

Security Studies

MAJOR MAP

How to use the map

This map is designed to give you information about your chosen major that will help keep you on track for graduation within 4 years. The introductory sections will help orient you to “big picture” ideas like the topics and areas of interest inside your major, the kinds of courses you will take, university policies including admissions, and other general topics. The chart on the second page will help you to develop a productive plan to make the most of your 4 years at ECU and prepare yourself for the job market after graduation.

Remember, it is important that you diversify your experiences, for success both in your degree program and after graduation. While coursework is critically important, it should not be your only focus. The chart on page 2 will show you how to incorporate other kinds of experiences that will expand your knowledge of your chosen field and make you a more desirable job candidate. The map is only a guideline. Speak with your advisor often to learn about new opportunities, clarify concerns, and develop a plan that is right for you.



Questions?

ECU will help you grow and learn from your first day of orientation until your graduation. Your Academic and Faculty Advisors, New Student Orientation, Pirate to Pirate Mentoring, the University Writing Center, and the Career Center are only a few of the services and centers available to assist you throughout your time on campus.

THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Security Studies



ADMISSIONS INFO

You can apply to ECU through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website at www.ecu.edu/admissions. To be considered for admission, freshmen applicants must submit their high school transcript and standardized test scores. Transfer applicants submit official transcripts from all previously attended institutions. Application deadlines and specific admissions requirements for freshmen and transfer applicants are listed on the website.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

The major offers exciting courses. Some of these include:

- SECS 1000 Introduction to Security Studies
- SECS 4000 Senior Seminar in Security Studies
- HIST 3670 History of the Middle East since 1500
- POLS 3155 National Security Policy
- POLS 3180 The U.S. Intelligence Community
- POLS 4382 Politics of Terrorism
- RELI 3800 Religion and Violence

WHY SECURITY STUDIES?

The Security Studies program is unique in that:

- Security Studies is a growing career field;
- It is multidisciplinary and examines security-related issues at all levels of government;
- Students are encouraged to talk to their advisor about the potential for double-majoring, rather than doing a minor, which many students can do within the same number of credits.

WORKPLACE SUCCESS

What Employers Want

With your Security Studies major, you will pursue a career that requires specific skills and experiences. These might include:

1. Critical thinking and analytical skills
2. Ability to identify relevant and credible source materials
3. Excellent writing skills, especially the ability to express complex problems in a concise manner
4. Briefing/presentation skills
5. Understanding of U.S. Government functions, foreign policy and national security policy
6. Ability to work in teams and develop leadership skills
7. Practical experience through relevant internships, participation in study abroad, data analysis and/or foreign language proficiency

WHAT CAN I LEARN?

While completing the Security Studies major, you can expect to:

- Develop the skills necessary to succeed in a professional environment;
- Understand the concepts and theories relevant to this career field;
- Gain practical knowledge about the modern world and insights into the major issues of our age;
- Learn basic concepts relevant to the structures, power, procedures and problems in the international system, and how the U.S. interfaces with them;
- Identify and understand the factors that influence international, domestic, and individual security;
- Analyze the ways in which cultures, societies, politics, economics, power, environment, and religions can result in conflict between and within states;
- Assess foreign and security policies.



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ABOUT THE CONCENTRATION

The Multidisciplinary Studies: Security Studies program teaches students an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and addressing the diverse domestic and international threats to U.S. national security. The program is designed to enable students to evaluate threats and develop viable responses at the international, national, state and local levels. The program will also increase students' understanding of the institutional coordination required to meet the challenges posed by such threats. It is our goal to educate students and prepare them to compete for careers that will further their success as well as contributing to the well-being of our society.

We do this by:

- Preparing our students at all levels to confront and overcome security-related challenges. Our programs treat security issues as spanning multiple levels of government from local to national and international. Understanding security issues requires in-depth knowledge of the global and multicultural contexts in which they are occurring.
- The program draws classes from 15 different disciplines within 3 colleges, providing the opportunity for students to study the broad fields that are involved in identifying and solving security-related problems.

DEGREE OPTIONS

To earn a BA in Security Studies you will need to complete a minimum of 120 credit hours, including:

- General Education requirements
- Demonstrate foreign language proficiency through level 2004
- 15 credit hours in Core Security Studies courses
- 6 credit hours of writing and communication cognate courses
- 24 credit hours of electives from at least 4 different disciplines
- At least 18 credit hours in a minor.

To earn a BS in Security Studies you will need to complete a minimum of 120 credit hours:

- General Education requirements
- 15 credit hours in Core Security Studies courses
- 6 credit hours of writing and communication cognate courses
- 24 credit hours of electives from at least 4 different disciplines
- At least 18 semester hours in a minor.

Foreign language hours are not required for the BS

Multidisciplinary Studies: Security Studies MAJOR MAP

DEGREE INFORMATION



APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR

CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP AND/OR STUDY ABROAD

FIRST YEAR >>>

SECOND YEAR >>>

THIRD YEAR >>>

FOURTH YEAR >>>

POST-GRAD OPTIONS ▼

THE COURSES YOU NEED

Begin completing the General Education requirements (ENGL 1100 & MATH 1050). Register for SECS 1000 (fall), JUST 1000 & POLS 2020. If completing the BA in MULT: SECS, begin taking foreign language requirements. Work with your advisor to develop your academic plan in DegreeWorks.

Continue to progress with general education requirements and foreign languages (if needed) and begin with your SECS electives.

Complete general education requirements and register for any remaining SECS core courses, including POLS 3031 in the fall. Continue with SECS electives and second major or minor courses. Be sure you have 4 WI classes completed.

Complete electives for major/minor/second major. Register for SECS 4000: Senior Seminar in Security Studies in the spring. Meet with your academic advisor before the year starts to be sure you will have a minimum of 120 semester hours and all the requirements to complete the major. Apply for graduation!

Students who graduate with a degree in Security Studies have a variety of career options. Some of these include:

- Federal, state or local intelligence or law enforcement
- Contract work for security-related agencies
- Domestic or international think tanks, interest groups or non-profit organizations
- Local or state government
- Law school
- Private sector security and intelligence
- Graduate school
- Military service

GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Explore your major and career options in consultation with your advisor. By the end of your first year you should have identified the experience necessary for the kinds of employment you may be interested in and start thinking about relevant internships and the potential to study abroad.

Use the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#), [USAJobs.gov](#), and/ or other resources available through [Career Services](#) to identify common skills in your career field. Take classes that will help you develop the skills that will make you marketable when you graduate.

Internships, part-time jobs, student leadership positions, volunteer, and community engagement activities can help build your résumé and give you valuable experience. Connect directly with faculty members who share your interests, network and identify future opportunities.

Volunteering for political, governmental, or social organizations is a great way to get experience in your field, build your résumé, test your interest in working with diverse populations, and develop your professional network. During your final year you should consider participating in ECU's [Research and Creative Achievement Week](#).

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Pay attention to emails from the department that will let you know about upcoming guest lectures, internship opportunities, and special events. Keep up with the department social calendar to attend events. Consider opportunities to get involved with quantitative research, and experience with GIS.

Join student and national organizations that suit your interests, which may include the International Studies Association or [Women in International Security](#).

Connect with the [Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement](#) to explore local opportunities. Also consider contacting community partners using the [Orgsync](#) directory. To build your professional network, join a professional organization like International Political Science Association.

Submit a proposal to present a polished research paper from one of your classes at a relevant professional conference such as the International Security Studies Section of International Studies Association-International Security and Arms Control Section of the American Political Science Association joint Annual Conference.

THINK GLOBALLY

Integrate internationally-oriented classes into your electives. If you are considering a foreign language, check the critical languages identified by agencies of interest. Consider volunteer work abroad with NGOs/international aid organizations like the Peace Corps and International Red Cross.

Consider studying abroad. Work with the [Office of Global Affairs](#) and the [Career Center](#) to learn how to leverage your study abroad experience to improve your job placement possibilities.

Being internationally aware and culturally competent is increasingly important. Consider taking courses such as GEOG 3003 Political Geography; RELI 1690 World Religions; POLS 3291 Politics of Genocide in the 20th Century; RELI 3800 Religion and Violence.

Take on a leadership position in one of your globally-oriented student organizations. Complete your program by incorporating more internationally-focused courses.

VISIT US ONLINE

For more information and an interactive map PDF, visit: www.securitystudies.ecu.edu

CAREER PREPAREDNESS

Meet with your Career Counselor to explore your goals and develop your résumé. Attend career fairs and other employer-related activities. Speak to your instructors and advisors about career options often. Spend some time each year reviewing qualifications for positions advertised on USAJobs.gov and elsewhere.

Meet with [Career Services](#) to investigate job-related skills and identify gaps in your résumé so you can address them early. Log in to ECU CareerNET to set up your profile, check out career events, and begin to explore potential employers and job opportunities.

Remember that some careers in this field require that you apply as much as a year in advance. It may not be too early to start applying this spring. Develop your [LinkedIn](#) profile. If helpful, research graduate schools and program requirements. Continue to attend career fairs and other employer-related events. Work with Career Services to identify potential job opportunities.

Meet with your Career Counselor and Academic Advisor to put your post-graduation plans into action. Refine your résumé, [LinkedIn](#) profile, and interview skills. Complete the Pirate Employment Survey.

