

International Studies

The International Studies major provides students with the sophisticated knowledge of world affairs that is becoming increasingly necessary in the 21st century. A major in International Studies complements and broadens the focus of almost all majors offered at St. Ambrose. The major is a broad-based, interdisciplinary plan of study that focuses on contemporary world issues and concerns.

Contact us

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Admissions Office
563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627
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StAmbrose
University

Degrees offered and required credit hours

Comprised of a cluster of culture, language and international affairs courses, International Studies is a 36 credit hour major. Students take 36 credit hours of core courses that have a contemporary focus, including Global Issues, and 6 hours in international relations, 6 hours in interdisciplinary courses, 6 hours of a foreign language at the 300 level, and 12 hours within a concentration of Latin America or Europe, one semester study abroad, and 3 hours of a writing intensive research course. Other courses may be added as approved by the International Studies board.

Program highlights and courses

Students majoring in International Studies graduate with an awareness of their place in a rapidly changing world and with the attitudes and the skills to allow them to participate effectively in the contemporary global community. It combines courses, projects and overseas experiences to develop competency in contemporary global and international issues. With the assistance of the International Studies director, students are able to create their own flexible plan of study that corresponds to their individual interests and/or career goals. This plan of study can focus on a region of the world or a thematic issue. The director can provide direction and coordinate the various components of the major, as well as give advice to students about choosing a track or area that best suits their interests and career expectations.

An integral component of the International Studies major is study abroad. When students live in a culture different from their own, they can gain, in ways not possible in a U.S.-based course of study, a sophisticated knowledge of world affairs that will be increasingly necessary for a variety of careers in the 21st century.

The director works closely with the director of Center for International Education to place students in suitable overseas programs. Students also have the opportunity to perfect their language skills while taking specialized courses at a foreign university. See our course catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog for a full description of required and elective courses.

How can a major in International Studies help you?

Students interested in fields such as teaching, journalism, business and government service, or with non-governmental organizations with international operations will find that a major in International Studies greatly enhances their career prospects. Some of the possible careers benefitting from an international orientation are international law, banking, investment, management, marketing, advertising and tourism. International divisions of the U.S. government, including departments of trade, agriculture, health, population, education and immigration, often require second-language proficiency and foreign living experience even for entry-level positions. Additionally, an international perspective greatly strengthens students' ability to help public interest and service organizations such as the Peace Corps, United Nations and the Red Cross perform their work worldwide.

About the faculty

As an interdisciplinary program, the International Studies major provides students the advantage of learning from top faculty from a variety of departments including Political Science, Business, History, Art, Philosophy and English.