

Doctor of Philosophy

International Studies

(PhD)

GPIS is an interdisciplinary unit, offering advanced research and graduate training in global problems and transnational issues. Fields of concentration include Comparative Cultural and Political Studies, Conflict and Cooperation, International Political Economy and Development, Modeling and Simulation, Strategic Leadership, and U.S. Foreign Policy and International Relations.

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<https://www.odu.edu/intlstudies/gpis.html.html>

Admission Requirements

All candidates for admission into the PhD must submit:

1. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (may be waived on a case-by-case basis for PhD applicants depending on prior qualifications at the master's level).
2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate or prior graduate course work submitted directly by all universities attended.
3. An essay of not more than 500 words describing interest in and capacity for advanced training in global/transnational issues.
4. One example of writing or research (a paper submitted to a seminar, a publication or report, or another comparable example).
5. Three letters of recommendation addressing the candidate's capacity to undertake graduate work on international global issues.

Any prior graduate course work taken at Old Dominion University (e.g., in nondegree status) or at another institution can be counted toward the PhD degree only in accordance with the provisions governing transfer of credit and the director's approval.

Admission Standards

1. Applicants to the PhD program must hold a master's degree in a related field of study.
2. PhD candidates are generally expected to attain a GRE score of 148 Quantitative and 160 Verbal (1200 Old Score) and have at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA in undergraduate and graduate courses, with a somewhat higher GPA for courses related to international, global or transnational issues.
3. Individuals whose native language is not English must submit a score of 230 on the computer-based TOEFL (the equivalent of 570 in the older, paper-based score scale) or 80 on the TOEFL iBT.
4. The Admissions Committee strongly recommends prior international experience (residence, study or work) and foreign language training for all PhD applicants. Evidence of substantial international and foreign language background is highly desirable for applicants.

Application Deadline, PhD

GPIS admits students for fall and spring semesters. We prefer applications to reach us by January 15 and October 15. Applications outside these timelines will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

With the permission of the GPIS Director, individuals who want to begin graduate work but do not intend to finish their degree with GPIS or individuals who want to join GPIS at a later date, may be considered for taking graduate courses as non-degree seeking students.

GPIS offers a number of doctoral and master's graduate assistantships and awards them on the basis of availability and competitiveness. Applicants

who want to be considered for a graduate assistantship are advised to submit their application by the above deadlines.

Curriculum Requirements

The PhD requires 48 credits at the post-master's level (courses at the 800 level). These 48 hours include a minimum of 12 dissertation credits. The 48 credits do not include any courses needed for demonstrating foreign language competency. Each student's program of study is supervised by a faculty committee.

Upon completion of coursework, PhD students must pass a written and an oral candidacy examination, submit a dissertation prospectus, write a dissertation, and undergo an oral defense of the dissertation.

Each required course must be completed with a grade of B (3.00) or above. PhD students must take 12 credit hours of core courses, 15 credit hours in one field of concentration and 9 credit hours from another field, totaling 36 credit hours. Twelve credit hours of dissertation preparation credits must be taken to complete the credit hour requirement of 48 hours at the post-master's level (course at the 800 level).

Required Prerequisites

IS 600	Research Methods in International Studies	3
IS 601	Seminar in International Relations Theory	3
IS 606 or IS 655	American Foreign Policy and World Order International History	3
ECON 650	International Economics	3

Core Courses

IS 814	Law in the International System	3
IS 820	Research Seminar in Global Security	3
IS 823	Advanced Statistical Techniques in International Studies	3
IS 824	International & Comparative Political Economy	3

Fields of Concentration

Select a Primary Concentration	15
Select a Secondary Concentration	9

Total Credit Hours **48**

Fields of Concentration

Select two of the following six fields of concentration: Comparative Cultural and Political Studies, Conflict and Cooperation, International Political Economy and Development, Modeling and Simulation, and Strategic Leadership, and US Foreign Policy. The primary concentration requires a total of five courses and the secondary requires a total of three courses. Students must choose courses from the below lists as specified. IS 895 Topics in International Studies and IS 896 Selected Topics in International Studies courses may be accepted with the approval of the program director in coordination with the concentration coordinators. Courses not on these lists may be accepted with the approval of the program director in coordination with the concentration coordinators.

Comparative Cultural and Political Studies Concentration

Students selecting Comparative Cultural and Political Studies as their major must take IS 816 Theories of Comparative Sociopolitical Studies and IS 860 International Cultural Studies: History, Theory and Application and three other courses for their primary concentration or one for their secondary from the following list.

IS 816	Theories of Comparative Sociopolitical Studies	3
IS 860	International Cultural Studies: History, Theory and Application	3
Select three of the following if primary concentration, or one if secondary concentration:		3-9
IS 803	Ethics and International Relations	
IS 804	Latin American Politics	

IS 808	Asian Politics
IS 822	Democracy and International Relations
IS 825	Politics of the Middle East
IS 828	Ghosts of French Colonization
IS 831	Media & Migration
IS 838	European Politics
IS 840	Political Economy of Development
IS 848	Gender and Globalization
IS 870	Transnational Media Practices
IS 895	Topics in International Studies (Gender & International Migration)
HLSC 876	Global Health

Conflict and Cooperation Concentration

Students must take IS 802 Approaches to Collective Security and four other courses for their primary concentration or two for their secondary from the following list.

IS 802	Approaches to Collective Security	3
Select four of the following if primary concentration, or two if secondary concentration:		
IS 807	Interdependence, Power, and Transnationalism	
IS 808	Asian Politics	
IS 821	New World Order: Chaos and Coherence	
IS 834	U.S. Grand Strategy	
IS 835	International Relations of the Middle East	
IS 890	Advanced Seminar Conflict & Cooperation	

Total Credit Hours **9-15**

International Political Economy and Development Concentration

Students must take IS 840 Political Economy of Development and four other courses for their primary concentration or two for their secondary from the following list.

IS 840	Political Economy of Development
Must take four other courses if primary concentration, or two if secondary concentration:	
IS 807	Interdependence, Power, and Transnationalism
IS 811	International Migration and Refugee Movement
IS 816	Theories of Comparative Sociopolitical Studies
IS 817	World Population and Development
IS 822	Democracy and International Relations
IS 841	Globalization and Social Change in the World System
IS 898	Directed Research (Political Economy)

Total Credit Hours **6-12**

Modeling and Simulation Concentration

Students selecting this field as their primary or secondary concentration must take MSIM 601 Introduction to Modeling and Simulation or MSIM 602 Simulation Fundamentals as their required field course and four other courses for their primary or two for their secondary from the following list.

MSIM 601	Introduction to Modeling and Simulation	3
or MSIM 602	Simulation Fundamentals	
Select four of the following if primary concentration or two of the following if secondary concentration:		
BNAL 822	Agent-Based Simulation and Modeling	
ECON 807	Econometrics II	

ECON 808	Econometrics III
ENMA 812	Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis and Decision Support Systems
ENMA 824	Risk Analysis
ENMA 854	Big Data Fundamentals
IDT 855	Theory and Design of Instructional Simulation
IDT 856	Instructional Gaming: Theories and Practice
IS 862	Game Theory
IS 865	Agent-Based Modeling and Simulation for International Studies
IS 872	Modeling Global Events
MSIM 825	Principles of Combat Modeling and Simulation
PSYC 836	Multilevel Models: HLM

Total Credit Hours **9-15**

Strategic Leadership Concentration

Students selecting this field as their major or minor must take IS 821 New World Order: Chaos and Coherence as their required field course and four more courses within their primary concentration and two courses within their secondary.

IS 821	New World Order: Chaos and Coherence	3
Select four of the following if primary concentration or two of the following if secondary concentration:		
IS 801	Global Change and American Foreign Policy	
IS 802	Approaches to Collective Security	
IS 808	Asian Politics	
IS 813	Global Political Economy	
IS 834	U.S. Grand Strategy	
IS 841	Globalization and Social Change in the World System	

Total Credit Hours **9-15**

US Foreign Policy Concentration

Students must take IS 834 U.S. Grand Strategy and four courses for their primary concentration or two for their secondary from the following list.

IS 834	U.S. Grand Strategy	3
Select four of the following if primary concentration, or two if secondary concentration:		
IS 801	Global Change and American Foreign Policy	
IS 802	Approaches to Collective Security	
IS 803	Ethics and International Relations	
IS 821	New World Order: Chaos and Coherence	
IS 840	Political Economy of Development	
IS 841	Globalization and Social Change in the World System	
IS 895	Topics in International Studies	

Total Credit Hours **9-15**

Additional Requirements

Methodology Requirements

All PhD students must complete a sequence of two basic methods courses beginning with IS 600. Students holding an MA from another institution who enter the PhD program may present transcripts showing a B (3.00) or above, plus syllabi and other documentation, from a similar introductory methods course to be exempt from IS 600.

Language Requirements

PhD students must demonstrate reading competence in one foreign language other than English. International students who have English as a second language fulfill this requirement.

Foreign language competence can be demonstrated in one of two ways:

1. Students may complete a third year of language instruction at Old Dominion University (students may choose to enter the third year through a University placement test) or other institutions. A grade of B or above in both semesters of third-year instruction will demonstrate competency in that language.
2. Students may take a language test. Exams are administered (for a fee) by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. GPIS requirements concern reading comprehension competence. For more information about which skills will be tested and what standards of competency are required, contact GPIS. If a student wishes to demonstrate competency in an uncommonly taught language, GPIS will endeavor, so far as practicable, to arrange an examination by Old Dominion University faculty and/or consultants. For more information about this method for demonstrating language competency, contact GPIS.

Candidacy Examinations

All PhD students must pass a written candidacy examination. Students who pass the written candidacy examination must then pass an oral candidacy examination.

The PhD candidacy examination may not be scheduled before students have completed all core and methodology requirements, nor may the PhD candidacy examination be scheduled prior to the last semester in which regular course work is taken. PhD students are also required to fulfill the foreign language requirement before taking the candidacy examination. PhD examinations are scheduled twice a year. PhD students failing the written examination on the first attempt may retake the written exam only once, no earlier than the following semester.

Dissertations

A dissertation is required of all PhD students. A dissertation prospectus will be prepared after the successful completion of the candidacy examination. If the student's graduate committee approves the prospectus, the student will proceed to research and write the dissertation. An oral defense of the dissertation will be scheduled after a draft is approved by the committee.

Grade Requirements

PhD students will be graded on the traditional A, B, C, F scale (with pluses and minuses) in all courses. Pass/Fail evaluations will be utilized only in the case of registration for internships or for thesis or dissertation research, or when specifically approved by the director.

Graduate students for whom grade point averages fall below 3.00 (B) will be placed on a probationary status. After two consecutive semesters below this average or the accumulation of two grades of "C" or below, the director will take under consideration, in consultation with faculty, termination of the student's program.

Time Limit and Residency Requirements

The doctoral program must be completed within eight years of entry into PhD course work.

Transfer Credit

Twelve graduate credits earned at other institutions or at Old Dominion University may be applied toward the fulfillment of degree requirements. Transfer credit, including nondegree credit earned at Old Dominion, is accepted as degree credit at the discretion of the director.

Financial Aid

Full-time students are eligible to apply for University fellowships, teaching and research assistantships, and tuition grants which are awarded on a competitive basis.

Nondegree Students

Nondegree students must obtain the approval of the director before enrolling in graduate international studies classes.