International Relations (BA)

Director: Paola Fajardo-Heyward (fajardop@canisius.edu), PhD

Introduction

The International Relations program at Canisius College is a multidisciplinary program that includes courses in political science, history, modern languages, international business, economics, religious studies, philosophy, and other academic disciplines. The goals of the program are to provide the International Relations major with a basic understanding of the issues, functions and theories of the international system and to cultivate skills in research, writing, critical thinking, analysis, and oral presentation that are necessary for success in a career in the fields of international affairs, international business, law, education, and academia. Students majoring in International Relations must also satisfy a requirement for an International Education Experience. Each student's program is structured to maximize options after graduation. Completion of the major program will lead to a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations. For a more detailed description of the program, faculty, facilities, academic, and co-curricular opportunities please go to the International Relations website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/international-relations/).

Qualifications

The International Relations major and minor are open to any student who has completed PSC 140 (Introduction to International Relations) with a minimum grade of C. A minimum overall average of 2.00 in all courses taken to complete the major or the minor, and a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA, is required for program completion.

Advisement

All students should have an advisor in the major and should contact the department directly to have an advisor assigned if they do not already have one. Meetings with academic advisors are required prior to students receiving their PIN for course registration each semester. All majors should work closely with their advisor in discussing career expectations, choosing their major electives, developing their entire academic program and planning their co-curricular or supplemental academic experiences.

Note: Advisement is the responsibility of the Director of the International Relations Program, who may share this responsibility with other members of the International Relations Advisory Council. All International Relations majors and minors are expected to consult with their advisor in the program at least once each semester.

Double Majors

Students who wish to expand their educational opportunities may decide to declare a double major. This decision may be based on career goals, planned graduate studies, and/or other student interests. Before a student declares a double major, it is important to meet with the appropriate academic departments for advisement. In order to declare a double major, the student must complete the appropriate double major request form and get the signature of each department chairperson and the appropriate associate dean.

Per college policy, each additional major requires a minimum of 15 credits that do not apply to the student's first or subsequent major. Some double major combinations can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in other cases additional course work may be required. Please note that students will receive only one degree, regardless of the number of majors they complete.

Double majors have been developed between the International Relations Program and the Departments of History (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/college-arts-sciences/history/); Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate-college-arts-sciences/modern-languages-literatures-cultures/); and Political Science (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate-college-arts-sciences/political-science/) as well as with the programs in European Studies, (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate-college-arts-sciences/european-studies/); Latin American Studies (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate-college-arts-sciences/latin-american-studies/), and International Business (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/wehle-school-business/international-business-programs/). It is also possible to pursue a double major with other academic programs such as Communication Studies, Criminal Justice, Economics, and Sociology. For further information on double majors, contact the director of the International Relations Program. Students pursuing a dual major in International Relations and another major may double count as many courses as possible toward the satisfaction of International Relations major requirements.

Minors in Other Disciplines

Minors provide students the opportunity to pursue additional interests but generally do not require as many courses as a major. Minors generally range from five to eight required courses. To receive a minor, the student must complete at least 9 credit hours of coursework distinct from their other credentials (i.e., majors, other minors). The minors page (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/minors/) provides a complete list of minors and provides links to each minor. Some majors and minors can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. Students must complete the appropriate minor request form.

Curriculum

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All undergraduate students must complete either the Canisius Core Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/core-curriculum/) or the All-College Honors Curriculum (http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/all-college-honors-program/). Many schools refer to their college-wide undergraduate requirements as “general education” requirements. We believe that the core curriculum and the honors curriculum are more than a series of required classes; they provide the basis for a Jesuit education both with content and with required knowledge and skills attributes that are central to our mission.

Free Electives

Students may graduate with a bachelor’s degree with more but not less than 120 credit hours. Free electives are courses in addition to the Canisius Core Curriculum or All-College Honors Curriculum and major requirements sufficient to reach the minimum number of credits required for graduation. The number of credits required to complete a bachelor’s degree may vary depending on the student’s major(s) and minor(s).

Major Requirements

All International Relations majors must take a core of nine courses in history, political science and economics, including an upper-level course in international business, and seven electives that have been approved.
by the International Relations Program Advisory Council for major credit. In addition, all International Relations majors must demonstrate proficiency in a modern foreign language through the Intermediate High level according to guidelines established by the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages, which at Canisius College typically requires successful completion of at least one 200-level foreign language course. All International Relations majors must also satisfy an international experience requirement that includes but is not limited to study abroad in a foreign university or an approved short-term program.

**World Culture Electives**

International Relations Majors are encouraged to satisfy their Core Curriculum requirements in Fields 1, 2, and 3 by taking courses that provide a cultural dimension to the study of international relations. Under the current IR major curriculum students may take one or two of these courses — depending upon the particular track they may be following — as IR major electives. Courses offered by the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (e.g., FRC, GER, SPA) require prerequisites and are generally taught in the language of study.

**International Relations Electives**

Students must choose seven courses from the Major Electives and/or Approved World Culture Electives (only two of the seven may come from the World Culture Electives).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIS 107 &amp; HIS 108</td>
<td>History of Modern Europe to 1815 1 and History of Modern Europe since 1815 1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 109 &amp; HIS 110</td>
<td>History of Asia to 1800 and History of Asia Since 1800</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 131 &amp; HIS 132</td>
<td>Latin American History to 1830 and Latin American History since 1830</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 300</td>
<td>Historical Geography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 140</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 150</td>
<td>Comparative Government and Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 245</td>
<td>American Foreign Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 442</td>
<td>Seminar in International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECO 101</td>
<td>Principles of Macroeconomics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Business Course at 300- or 400-level (approved courses are indicated by footnote in Major Electives below)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Relations Electives - select 7 from the lists below (no more than 2 world culture electives)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign Language Requirement (additional detail below) 2</td>
<td>3-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Educational Experience (study abroad or alternative approved by the International Relations Director)</td>
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</table>
the International Relations Program Advisory Council.

nine courses at Canisius College. Exceptions to this rule may be approved by

permission from the director of the International Relations Program. As a

as International Relations major electives, but this will require special

study at an accredited university abroad other than those with articulations.

(list of sites with current articulations is available at the

Canisius College to set up and monitor study abroad programs for Canisius

The Director of the International

Study Abroad Office for summer programs at The Catholic

University of Lille, France; IÉSEG, Paris, France; the Berlin School of

Economics and Law, the Catholic University of Eichstaett, and the Technical

University of Dortmund in Germany; the National University of Ireland,

Galway; Lorenzo de’ Medici in Florence and Rome, Italy; the Universidad

de Oviedo and the Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Spain; and the Sacred

Heart University in Puerto Rico.

All International Relations majors and minors planning international

educational experiences, whether short-term or traditional Study Abroad,

must consult in advance with the Study Abroad office, the Director of the

International Relations Program, the Chair or Director of all relevant

academic programs, and the student’s Associate/Assistant Dean to discuss

whether courses completed abroad may satisfy academic requirements at

Canisius College. Language credit may be awarded but this requires prior

approval from the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and

Cultures.

Additional Course Considerations

Within the International Relations major a student may pursue one of four

distinct tracks in International Business, International History, International

Politics, and Language and World Culture. A student may also opt to pursue

none of these tracks but fulfill the program major requirements listed above

without concentrating in any particular area of the program. If a student

chooses to pursue one of these four tracks, this will affect his or her choice

of major electives. A student pursuing one of these tracks would still be

required to take a modern foreign language through the Intermediate

High level and to satisfy the international experience requirement. For

further information, contact the director of the International Relations

Program. For further information on each of these tracks, please go to

the International Relations website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/

programs/international-relations/).

Roadmap

Recommended Semester Schedule for Major

Course Requirements

Freshman

Fall
PSC 140
Select one of the following:
HIS 107
HIS 109
HIS 131
Modern Language at appropriate level
ECO 101
Sophomore
Fall
PHI 101
Modern Language 300-level
PSC 245
IR Major Elective

Spring
PSC 150
Select one of the following:
HIS 108
HIS 110
HIS 132
Modern Language at appropriate level
IR Major Elective
IR Major Elective

Under some circumstances a short-term study abroad experience may be

desirable. Recent examples of opportunities available include programs

in Argentina, Canada (Québec), Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Puerto Rico,

and Spain, among others. Majors interested in these experiences should

inquire with the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

(or other sponsoring programs) for more information. Students also may

inquire with the Study Abroad Office for summer programs at The Catholic

University of Lille, France; IÉSEG, Paris, France; the Berlin School of

Economics and Law, the Catholic University of Eichstaett, and the Technical

University of Dortmund in Germany; the National University of Ireland,

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Canisius College. Language credit may be awarded but this requires prior

approval from the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and

Cultures.
Learning Goals & Objectives

Student Learning Goal 1
International Relations Majors will demonstrate a basic knowledge of the components and dynamics of the international system.

Students will:
• Objective A: Demonstrate an understanding of the issues, functions, and theories of the international system;
• Objective B: Demonstrate an understanding of the role of history in international affairs;
• Objective C: Demonstrate an understanding of the role of geography in international affairs;
• Objective D: Demonstrate an understanding of the similarities and differences in political systems and economies;
• Objective E: Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the United States in the international system.

Student Learning Goal 2
International Relations majors will develop competence in the skills that are appropriate to the discipline and that are necessary for success.

Students will:
• Objective A: Demonstrate competence in the techniques of scholarly research in the field of International Relations;
• Objective B: Demonstrate competence in the techniques of scholarly writing in the field of International Relations;
• Objective C: Demonstrate competence at the ACTFL intermediate-high level in the use of a modern foreign language;
• Objective D: Be able to analyze an international problem or issue in a manner that demonstrates global or regional understanding and sensitivity to cultural difference.

Minor

A minor in International Relations consists of nine courses, of which two may be used to satisfy requirements in Fields 4 and 5 of the Canisius College core curriculum.

International Relations Minor Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIS 107</td>
<td>History of Modern Europe to 1815</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; HIS 108</td>
<td>and History of Modern Europe since 1815 ¹</td>
<td></td>
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<td>PSC 140</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
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<td>PSC 150</td>
<td>Comparative Government and Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 300</td>
<td>Historical Geography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Business Course at 300- or 400-level (approved courses are indicated by footnote in International Relations Electives on the curriculum tab)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign Language Requirement ²</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Relations Electives - select 3 from the list on the curriculum tab</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 30-33

¹ Students may substitute HIS 213 or HIS 230 for HIS 108. If students use one of these courses to fulfill the general requirements for the minor, the same course may not be used as an elective course.

² A student pursuing a minor in International Relations must demonstrate intermediate competence in a modern foreign language. Generally this proficiency is fulfilled by successful completion of a modern language through the 215 level.

Please note, to receive a minor, a student must complete at least 9 credit hours of coursework distinct from their other credentials (i.e., majors, other minors). Please note that “ancillary/supporting” courses required for a major may still count as distinct courses as long as the remaining coursework still meets the 30 credit-hours required for a major.