

International Studies BA 2008 Assessment Plan

Name of Program: International Studies BA
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Person Completing Assessment Plan: same
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1. Program's educational goals or objectives:

The BA degree in International Studies emphasizes knowledge and understanding of:

- the languages and cultures of other nations
- major international issues and developments in countries around the world
- various aspects of the international economy, including trade, international finance, development, etc. and the impact of globalization on nations, cultures and individuals
- international business practices, including management, accounting, and marketing
- the histories, traditions, values, aspirations and concerns of people throughout the world.

2. Student learning objectives: Describe the desired student learning outcomes in terms of knowledge objectives, skill objectives, and (if applicable) dispositional objectives.

By the time of completion of the International Studies major, students will be able to:

- Research and analyze foreign states and societies through different academic disciplines (e.g. history, political science, anthropology).
- Research and analyze the many ways through which states and societies are interact and are interconnected across borders and the means through which these interactions are organized and structured through different academic disciplines (e.g. economics, political science, business)
- Develop a broad understanding of the cultural contexts of global affairs
- Engage in critical thinking – i.e., evaluate conflicting arguments, assemble and present empirical evidence using appropriate methods of research and data analysis, and make reasoned conclusions from the evidence available.
- Express their views effectively in written and verbal communication.

3. Assessment methods or techniques: Put a check mark next to the measurement methods that will be used.

X Written papers or reports
X Oral presentations

4. **Sampling:** Describe the sampling methods to be used – i.e., from whom will the assessment data be collected?

Each academic year, a sample of final papers in the capstone course and one more of the following courses will be collected:

1. 3000-level Political Science Course (PSC 3022 or PSC 3042)
2. 4000-level History Course (from Thematic Concentration 5)
3. 4000-level Economics Course (from Thematic Concentration 3)
4. 4000-level Geography or Anthropology Course

Each fall semester, the Director of the International Studies Program will decide on the specific courses from which samples of papers will be drawn and which faculty members will assess each set papers.

To assess oral communication, each fall semester the Director will decide on the specific courses in which this will be assessed. In these courses, the professor will assess oral presentations using the presentation rubric and check list.

5. **Data collection methods:** Describe how data will be collected, by whom, and when:

<u>Type of Data</u>	<u>To Be Collected By</u>	<u>When</u>
See above		

6. **Assessment scoring methods:** Describe how the assessments will be scored (e.g., calculations of total scores on objective tests; determination of categorical scores via the use of a scoring rubric on open-ended tasks, etc.), by whom, and when:

<u>Type of Scoring</u>	<u>To Be Scored By</u>	<u>When</u>
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Scoring rubrics will be used for all of the categories of courses. Rubrics have been developed by the departments that offer the above-mentioned courses.

7. **Data interpretation plans:** Describe what types of criteria will be used to interpret the data, and how data will be aggregated:

The criteria will be set out in the rubrics. Interpretations of the data from the 4 categories of courses will be summarized. Two of the outcomes (engage in critical thinking and express their views effectively in written and verbal communication) will be assessed across all of the categories of courses and the remaining outcomes will be assessed in one category of courses. The findings will be summarized in a report sent to the Outcomes Assessment Office and to all faculty members who regularly teach courses in the International Studies curriculum.

8. **Use of information** (the "feedback loop"): Describe how the information will be summarized and reported; to whom it will be reported; and how it will be used to make programmatic recommendations and decisions.

At the beginning of each fall semester, the outcomes report will be discussed in a faculty meeting, and the faculty will make programmatic recommendations and decisions to address areas needing improvement.

- **Major responsibility for tasks:** For steps 5-8, indicate who will take major responsibility for ensuring that the tasks are completed:

Data Collection: Faculty members teaching the courses that are being assessed.

Assessment Scoring: Developing rubrics for the courses listed above—the faculty in those areas.

Data Interpretation: A faculty member in the appropriate area whose class is not being assessed.

Reporting and “closing the feedback loop”: Director

- **Assessment evaluation:** Indicate how the assessment plan will be periodically reviewed by program faculty and, if necessary, revised.

Every 3 years, the faculty will review the assessment plan and revise if necessary.