

International Relations and Political Science, B.S.

Bachelor of Science in International Relations and Political Science

Audrey Kurth Cronin, *Director, and Trustees Professor of Security and Technology*
acronin@andrew.cmu.edu, Posner Hall 385A

Emily Half, *Deputy Director for Academic Affairs*
ehalf@andrew.cmu.edu, Posner Hall 391, 412-268-7082

<http://www.cmu.edu/cmist>

Overview

The Bachelor of Science in International Relations and Political Science (IRPS) is for students who want to learn how to think systematically and develop foundational knowledge about international and domestic politics. It is an interdisciplinary major that is rooted firmly in political science and draws on strengths and insights from decision science, economics, history, modern languages, and other fields. BS IRPS students wrestle with a wide range of issues including the future of democracy, the relationship between technology and politics, the drivers of war and peace, domestic politics across countries, and the formulation of effective foreign policies. IRPS graduates embark on a variety of careers in government, law, public policy, intelligence, national defense, consulting, international development, and more.

Core disciplinary courses for the IRPS major establish a strong foundation in the study of political science and enable students to better understand the workings of political institutions, political behavior across countries, the decision-making of political leaders, the making of national and international policy, and prevailing challenges to the international system, among other topics.

Core methodology courses train IRPS students in the social science tools and communications skills needed to analyze and write persuasively about international relations and politics. Students pursuing an IRPS major learn to use a wide range of analytic tools including statistics and data science, qualitative analysis, game theory, and behavioral decision-making models as they study politics and strategy. Students also learn how to effectively communicate their analyses to affect public policy.

A rich set of electives allows students to investigate issues in security and technology, grand strategy and national security, cybersecurity and international conflict, military strategy and doctrine, the politics of key regions of the world, international political economy and economic policy, representation and voting rights, climate change and development, repression and human rights, international law and diplomacy, political psychology and public opinion, and social change and revolution.

Recognizing the importance of language and culture in understanding politics and international relations, students are required to complete the intermediate (200) level, or its equivalent, in a modern language other than English. Advanced-level study is strongly encouraged.

Open to all Carnegie Mellon undergraduates, the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP) (<https://www.cmu.edu/cmist/washington-center/washington-semester-program/>) is an experiential learning program that allows students to study American politics, law, and public policy, while also interning in Washington, DC, for one semester. Courses taken through CMU/WSP count toward electives for the IRPS major.

The major in International Relations and Political Science is available as both a primary and additional major. The requirements are the same for both.

Curriculum

A maximum of four courses may double count between the IRPS major and any other majors or minor. Unlimited double counting is permitted with general education requirements.

Political Science Core Courses 45 units

Students must complete all of the following political science core courses.

	Units
84-101 Introduction to Political Science	9
84-110 The Economics of Politics and Technology	9
or 73-102 Principles of Microeconomics	

or 73-103 Principles of Macroeconomics	
or 73-104 Principles of Microeconomics Accelerated	
84-250 Writing for Political Science and Policy	9

Students must complete two of the three courses listed below. If all three are taken, the third can count as an elective for the major.

84-104 Decision Processes in American Political Institutions	9
84-226 International Relations	9
84-275 Comparative Politics	9

Methodology Core Courses 27 units

Students must complete all of the following methodology core courses.

84-266 Research Design for Political Science	9
84-369 Decision Science for International Relations	9
36-202 Methods for Statistics & Data Science	9

Language Requirement 9 units

Students are required to complete a course at the Intermediate II level or higher of a modern language other than English. Advanced level study is strongly encouraged. Students who successfully pass a language placement exam on campus, at the intermediate II level or higher, are required to take an advanced language course to satisfy the language requirement.

Electives 54 units

Students must complete 54 units (usually six courses) from the elective lists below. At least four courses (36 units) must be taken from the Carnegie Mellon Institute for Strategy and Technology (84-xxx). Most courses listed below are 9-unit courses, but some are fewer. When students choose courses offered for fewer than 9 units, they must remember that a minimum of 54 units is still required and thus plan to take one or more additional courses to fill out that minimum number. In other words, the key requirement is the number of *units* (54), not the number of *courses*.

Political Science Electives

84-120 Introduction to US Constitutional Law	9
84-200 Security War Game Simulation	3
84-252 Briefing in the Policy World	6
84-274 An Introduction to Technology and War	9
84-280 Popcorn and Politics: American Foreign Policy at the Movies	12
84-285 Introduction to Legal Education and the Legal Profession	9
84-301 Policy & Persuasion	6
84-303 International Human Rights	6
84-304 Analysis of Current US National Security Priorities	6
84-306 Latin American Politics	9
84-309 American Political Divides and Great Debates	9
84-310 Policy in a Global Economy 1: International Trade and Trade Policy	6
84-311 Policy in a Global Economy 2: International Macroeconomics and Finance	6
84-312 Terrorism in Sub-Saharan Africa	6
84-314 Politics, Technological Change, and Economic Growth	9
84-315 Rise of the Asian Economies	9
84-319 Civil-Military Relations	9
84-322 Nonviolent Conflict and Revolution	9
84-323 War and Peace in the Contemporary Middle East	9
84-324 The Future of Democracy	9
84-325 Contemporary American Foreign Policy	9
84-327 Who Really Runs America?: Subnational Governance and Policymaking	9
84-328 Military Strategy and Doctrine	9
84-329 Asian Strategies	6
84-330 Race for the Future: US-China Tech Competition	6
84-331 Technology, Law, and Democracy	6

84-332	Contemporary US Constitutional Law Issues *	6
84-333	Law of US Democracy	9
84-336	Implementing Public Policy: From Good Idea To Reality	12
84-338	Analysis of US Presidential Powers *	6
84-339	Seminar in Public Policy Research *	12
84-341	Transnational Criminal Networks & International Security	6
84-343	Offensive Cyber: Law & Policy	6
84-345	Hackers, the Law, & Policy Responses	6
84-347	Congress & National Security	9
84-349	Digital Diplomacy: Cybersecurity Challenges and Global Governance	9
84-350	A Strategist's Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	9
84-352	Representation and Voting Rights	9
84-353	US-China Strategic Stability	6
84-355	Democracy's Data: Analytics and Insights into American Elections	9
84-356	Applied Political Data Analytics	9
84-358	Money, Connections, and Power: Interests and Influence in the US	9
84-360	CMU/WSP Internship Seminar *	24
84-362	Diplomacy and Statecraft	9
84-363	Click. Hack. Rule: Understanding the Power & Peril of Cyber Conflict	9
84-365	The Politics of Fake News and Misinformation	9
84-366	The 21st-Century Presidency: Expanding Powers, New Challenges	9
84-367	The Politics of Antisemitism	9
84-368	Technology Ethics	9
84-370	Nuclear Security & Arms Control	9
84-371	International Governance of Artificial Intelligence	9
84-373	International Law	9
84-375	Geopolitics of Innovation	9
84-380	US Grand Strategy	9
84-383	National Cyber Policy & Strategy	6
84-386	The Privatization of Force	9
84-387	Remote Systems and the Cyber Domain in Conflict	9
84-389	Terrorism and Insurgency	9
84-393	The US Congress: Legislative Progress or Paralysis?	9
84-402	Judicial Politics and Behavior	9
84-405	The Future of Warfare	9

* Denotes courses taught in Washington, DC, through the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMU/WSP)

Additional Electives

19-452	EPP Projects II	12
70-342	Managing Across Cultures	9
70-365	International Trade and International Law	9
70-430	International Management	9
73-332	Political Economy	9
76-318	Communicating in the Global Marketplace	9
79-203	The Other Europe: The Habsburgs, Communism, & Central/Eastern Europe, 1740-1990	9
79-205	20th Century Europe	9
79-223	Mexico: From the Aztec Empire to the Drug War	9
79-227	Modern Africa: The Slave Trade to the End of Apartheid	9
79-229	The Origins of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, 1880-1948	9
79-230	The Arab-Israeli Conflict and Peace Process Through 1948 to Present	9
79-257	Germany and the Second World War	9
79-262	Modern China: From the Birth of Mao ... to Now	9
79-264	Tibet and China: History and Propaganda	9
79-265	Russian History: Game of Thrones	9
79-266	Russian History and Revolutionary Socialism	9

79-267	The Soviet Union in World War II: Military, Political, and Social History	9
79-275	Introduction to Global Studies	9
79-288	Bananas, Baseball, and Borders: Latin America and the United States	9
79-302	Killer Robots? The Ethics, Law, and Politics of Drones and A.I. in War	9
79-313	"Unwanted": Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Patterns of Global Migration	6
79-314	How Do We Remember? The Politics and Cultures of Memory	9
79-318	Sustainable Social Change: History and Practice	9
79-320	Women, Politics, and Protest	9
79-343	Education, Democracy, and the Arts	9
79-377	Food, Culture, and Power: A History of Eating	9
79-385	Out of Africa: The Making of the African Diaspora	9
80-135	Introduction to Political Philosophy	9
80-136	Social Structure, Public Policy & Ethics	9
80-249	AI, Society, and Humanity	9
80-335	Social and Political Philosophy	9
80-348	Health, Human Rights, and International Development	9
80-447	Seminar in Global Justice	9
Advanced Level Modern Language Course ^{Any 300 or 400 level} Modern Language Course		
88-234	Negotiation: International Focus	9
88-261	Health Policy and Decision Making	9
88-281	Topics in Law: 1st Amendment	9
88-284	Topics of Law: The Bill of Rights	9

NOTE: Some courses have additional prerequisites.

Senior Seminar

9 units

Students must complete the following course.

84-500	Senior Seminar	9
--------	----------------	---

Sample Four-Year Plan

These sample curricula represent a plan for completing the requirements for the B.S. in International Relations and Political Science. International Relations and Political Science (IRPS) students are encouraged to spend a semester studying and interning in Washington, DC, through the CMU/WSP (<http://www.cmu.edu/ips/cmuwsp/>), and/or study abroad. The plan below demonstrates that a semester off-campus fits well into the curriculum. As with most majors in Dietrich College, the IRPS major can be completed in as few as two years of undergraduate study, not that it must be. Students may declare the BS in International Relations and Political Science as early as the second semester of the first-year and should consult frequently with the deputy director of academic affairs (see above) about their course of study. Please note that this is only a sample plan of study and not the only possible plan of study. The IRPS major and Dietrich College General Education curricula provide a high degree of flexibility in sequencing and coursework. Double counting between the major and the General Education requirements is unlimited. The plan below shows a very conservative view of double counting.

First-Year		Second-Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
84-101 Introduction to Political Science	84-110 The Economics of Politics and Technology	84-266 Research Design for Political Science	84-250 Writing for Political Science and Policy
84-104 Decision Processes in American Political Institutions	84-226 International Relations or 84-275 Comparative Politics	36-202 Methods for Statistics & Data Science	Language Course*
36-200 Reasoning with Data	Disciplinary Perspectives: Humanities	IRPS Elective	IRPS Elective
First-Year Writing Language Course*	Language Course*	Language Course*	General Education
	Grand Challenge Seminar	General Education	General Education
99-101 Core@CMU			

* If starting a Modern Language at the Elementary I level, four semesters of language study are required for the IRPS major. AP credit or a language

placement exam may allow students to begin at CMU in a level higher than Elementary I and have fewer required semesters of language study.

Third-Year		Fourth-Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
84-369 Decision Science for International Relations	CMU/WSP or STUDY ABROAD*	IRPS Elective	84-500 Senior Seminar
IRPS Elective	Explore	IRPS Elective	IRPS Elective
General Education	Explore	IRPS Elective	General Education
General Education	Explore	General Education	Explore
Explore	Explore	General Education	Explore

* All students are strongly encouraged to participate in the CMU/WSP (<https://www.cmu.edu/cmist/washington-center/>) and/or in a study abroad program. Spring semester of the junior year is a popular semester to study off-campus. However, International Relations and Political Science majors may participate in the CMU/WSP or study abroad in spring of sophomore year, either semester of junior year or senior year. Students should consult the deputy director when planning their curricular program.