

IS Program Academic Advising Handbook

Fall 2019

Components of the IS Major

The IS major requires a total of 45 credits in 13 approved courses, *plus* certification of language proficiency. Nearly 90% of our students also study abroad.

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| 1. The IS Major Core | 24 credits earned in 6 courses |
| 2. An elective concentration | 18 credits earned in 6 courses |
| 3. Language proficiency | Advanced proficiency in one modern language or intermediate proficiency in two modern languages. (Credits not counted for IS.) |
| 4. Study abroad | Students can transfer up to 2 classes or 8 credits from abroad in one semester, or 12 credits across a full year, usually toward their elective track. |
| 5. Senior seminar or thesis | 3 credit senior seminar or 6-credit senior thesis (3 credits of which can apply to an elective concentration) |

1. The IS Major Core

All current IS majors must earn **24 credits in six courses**:

- **Where on Earth: Foundations in Global History & Culture** (INTL 2200/2201 lecture + lab): 6 credits taken Sophomore fall; also counts for BC History II Core, one BC Social Science Core, and a BC Cultural Diversity course requirement
- **Intro to International Relations** (INTL 2501): 4 credits taken Sophomore spring
- One pre-approved **comparative politics course** (POLI x4xx): 3 credits taken any time
- **Principles of Economics** (ECON 1101): 4 credits taken any time
- One **Economics elective** at the 2000 level (ECON 2xxx): 3 credits taken any time
- **Ethics, Religion, and International Politics** (INTL 5563): – 4 credits in Jr or Sr year, preferably after returning from abroad.

2. Elective Concentrations

Students choose one concentration/track in which to focus their studies, earning **18 credits in six courses**. This year's senior class ('20) is the last to have disciplinary concentrations.

The classes of 2021 (juniors) and 2022 (sophomores) have four options for concentrations:

A. Conflict and Cooperation

- 2 courses (6 credits) from an approved list of C&C "Foundations" courses
- 4 courses (12 credits) from list of pre-approved electives; others if approved by Director/DUS

B. Ethics and Social Justice

- One pre-approved foundation course (3 credits) in moral philosophy, theology, religious ethics or political theory
- One pre-approved foundation course (3 credits) in the social sciences
- 4 courses (12 credits) from a list of pre-approved electives; others if approved by Director/DUS

C. Global Cultures

- 2 courses (6 credits) from an approved list of GC "Foundations" courses: F1 is a "method" course and F2 is a "theory" course.
- 4 courses (12 credits) from a list of pre-approved electives in the Cultures at Work cluster or the Cultures and Social Movements cluster; others if approved by Director/DUS
- Global Cultures concentrators may elect to complete a 1-credit internship either in the creation of a cultural product or in grassroots mobilization and other participatory approaches to issues of global importance and cultural representation.

D. Political Economy and Development Studies

- 2 courses (6 credits) from an approved list of PEDS "Foundations" courses
- 4 courses (12 credits) from a list of pre-approved electives in the Political Economy cluster or Development Studies cluster; others if approved by Director/DUS

The Class of 2020 (seniors) were able to choose from four tracks:

A. Political Science

- 3 political science fundamentals courses (9 credits): Fundamentals of Politics; Intro to Modern Politics; and Research Methods
- 3 courses (9 credits) from a list of pre-approved electives, or approved by Director/DUS.

B. Economics

- 4 economics fundamentals courses (12 credits): Microeconomic Theory (ECON 2201), Macroeconomic Theory (ECON 2202), Statistics (ECON 1151), and either Econometrics (ECON 2228) or Game Theory (ECON 3308).
- 2 courses (6 credits) from a list of pre-approved electives, or approved by Director/DUS.

C. Ethics and Social Justice

- 2 pre-approved foundation courses (6 credits), one in moral philosophy, theology, religious ethics or political theory; the other in the social sciences
- 4 courses (12 credits) within one of 11 different clusters from a list of pre-approved electives, or approved by Director/DUS.

D. Global Cultural Studies

- 2 pre-approved foundation courses (6 credits): one on theoretical perspectives on culture, the other on Research Methods
- 4 courses (12 credits) within one of 11 different clusters from a list of pre-approved electives, or approved by Director/DUS. Four Electives, must choose from a specific cluster. We have 10 different clusters, see course list for complete list.

3. Language proficiency:

All students completing the IS major, regardless of school (MCAS, CSOM, Lynch, etc.) must demonstrate **advanced proficiency in one modern foreign language** or **intermediate proficiency in two modern foreign languages**. This is a more strenuous requirement than the MCAS minimum, and it must be met by all majors; **make sure your advisee has a plan to complete this language requirement**.

Advanced proficiency can be demonstrated in several ways:

- Successful completion of the second semester of the third-year sequence of a modern foreign language (e.g. *Spanish or French CCRII, or Third Year Russian part II.*)
 - *Exceptions: Arabic and Chinese courses have 2x the credits as others, so the IS Program considers advanced proficiency to be reached after the Intermediate I course is completed.*
- Successful completion of one semester of a modern foreign language course beyond the advanced level, taught in that language (e.g. French courses in the 3000 level or above)
- Earning a 5 on an AP language exam or a 700+ on an SAT subject test in a modern foreign language;
- demonstrating advanced proficiency to a faculty member in one of BC's language departments, **with a report sent by that professor to Ms. Patricia Joyce** in the IS Program office.

Intermediate proficiency in a language can be demonstrated in several ways:

- Successful completion of the second semester of the intermediate-level sequence of a modern foreign language course.
- Earning the following minimum scores on an AP language exam or SAT Subject Test: Chinese (AP4/650), French (AP3/550), German (AP4/600), Italian (AP3/550), Japanese (AP4/650), Korean (AP4/650), Modern Hebrew (AP4/650) or Spanish (AP3/550).
- demonstrating intermediate proficiency to a faculty member in one of BC's language departments, **with a report sent by that professor to Ms. Patricia Joyce** in the IS Program office.

Note: Language instruction courses beyond Intermediate II, such as CCR, may not be used as IS electives; but subject courses taught in a foreign language may be used as electives where applicable, if approved by the DUS/Director.

4. Study Abroad

Nearly 90% of IS majors study abroad for a summer, semester, or academic year—almost twice the BC average. Students studying abroad may claim two courses as IS electives (3-credits each) per semester, for a maximum of four electives (12 total credits) taken aboard, whether in summer courses or regular semesters.

- These courses should be credited as track electives, but in certain circumstances may be applied to track foundations.
- Because of the peculiarity of credit assignment, it may be possible to claim up to two 4-credit electives in a semester, but generally no more than 12 credits in a year. Exceptions occur; students should contact the DUS with inquiries.

Note: IS majors can count up to four non-BC courses toward their major, including those taken at international or American universities.

5. Senior Seminar or Thesis

Seniors choose either to take a senior seminar (which entails a substantial research paper) or write a senior thesis to complete the major.

- Senior seminars are 3-credit courses taught by IS faculty with an IS course number.
- Seniors writing a thesis enroll in a 3-credit thesis-writing course each semester, for a total of 6 credits. Three of these credits can be used toward an elective.

Decoding the Degree Audit

What is the degree audit?

The degree audit is a report about a student's progress toward meeting graduation requirements. A paper copy of a report for each of your advisees will be sent to you before advising period each semester, but faculty advisors can also review the degree audit online through the Agora Portal.

- To see your advisee's degree audit in Agora, click **Advisors List of Advisees** (the second option at top left, under the Academics and Courses module), then pull down the **List of Services** next to a student name and select **Degree Audit**.
- The current computer system ("UIS") that tracks student course credits cannot properly account for the complexity of our interdisciplinary curricular and co-curricular requirements, so students and advisors should review audits carefully.

Key concepts/rules that make IS students' degree audits intelligible:

- **Students need 120 credits in four years to graduate, 96 of which must be from MCAS courses**
 - Students often wrongly believe that a non-MCAS course (e.g. international management) that counts for the IS major also counts toward the 96 MCAS credit requirement, but this is not the case.
 - Current semester courses are not factored into the # of credits until the courses have been completed. You'll need to mentally add this semester's credits (usually 15) when calculating how far a student is from their 96 MCAS credits and 120 graduation credits.
- **Every MCAS major requires that students earn 27 credits unique to that program.**
 - Although IS requires 45 credits to complete the major, most other MCAS majors require 30 credits.
 - Using the "unique credits" rule stated above, students double-majoring in IS and a 30-credit major (e.g. PoliSci or Theology) may only count one course (3 credits) toward both majors simultaneously. This is **the "double count" scenario** students ask about frequently.
 - Under the same principle, students double-majoring in IS and higher-credit majors (e.g. Econ is 35 credits, Islamic Civilization & Societies is 54-62 credits) can double-count more courses.
 - One course cannot fulfill two IS requirements. UIS does occasionally put one course in two places, usually Comparative Politics and elective.
- **Courses taken while abroad must be pre-approved to receive credit toward the IS major.**
 - As soon as possible (usually just before and after their classes start), students studying abroad must send the following to Hiroshi Nakazato: name of course, syllabus, and what IS major requirement the course is to fulfill (e.g. elective for their track). Students should retain the email approval he provides.
- **Internships, language proficiency and AP credits:**
 - Students may earn 1 credit (pass/fail) for one internship that counts toward the 120-credit graduation requirement; only GC concentrators may count an internship toward the IS major. To apply for the credit, students get an electronic form from Patty Joyce, have their advisors sign it, and return it to the IS office at Connolly House. An MCAS dean must approve; Elizabeth Bracher signs it.
 - Advanced language proficiency rules are noted on p.3 of the Advising Handbook (above)
 - Students may use AP credits to satisfy an IS major course requirement (e.g. micro/macro-econ), but they still must take an IS elective course to accumulate the credits required. This needn't be a course on the same topic (e.g. economic theory), as long as it fits in their elective IS track.

How to correct errors in the degree audit:

- If BC courses are not properly credited on the audit, students should fill out a **degree substitution form** (which is picked up at Connolly House or Student Services, and returned to Connolly House for approval).
- If courses taken abroad aren't properly counted, fill out degree sub form and attach email approval.

Other important advising information

Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences:

- BC undergraduates need **120 credits to graduate**. Students in MCAS must earn at least 96 of their total credits in A&S courses in order to graduate. Certain CSOM Finance and Management courses can count toward the IS major but are NOT counted toward the 96-credit MCAS requirement.
- Each MCAS major requires at least 27 discrete credits that are not used to fulfill requirements for another major or minor. Each minor must have at least 15 credits that are not used to fulfill requirements for another major or minor.
- Advisors must confirm that students have completed the IS Program's **language requirements**, which are more strenuous than those of the MCAS at large (and thus also satisfy MCAS requirements).
- **Pass/Fail rules:** After freshmen year, students may register to take one course Pass/Fail each semester, and up to six total, but cannot switch to pass/fail after the drop/add period ends. **Courses that fulfill a major, minor, BC Core, or language requirement may not be taken Pass/Fail;** no courses in the Carroll School of Management may be taken Pass/Fail.
- Students are ordinarily expected to complete eight full-time semesters to graduate; meeting all graduation requirements does not necessarily mean a student can graduate early. Students seeking **accelerated graduation** should consult their class dean.
- The only courses that fulfill **University Core** requirements are those listed on the Core web site. Core courses are clearly marked as such on course descriptions.

Double Majoring/Minoring:

- In order to earn a major, students must have at least 27 “unique” credits in the major program, i.e., that are not used to fulfill requirements for another major or minor. Although IS requires 45 credits to complete the major, most other MCAS majors require 30 credits, meaning that usually only one course (3 credits) can “double-count” for two majors.
 - When students double-major in IS and a higher-credit major such as Econ (35 credits) or Islamic Civilization & Societies (54+ credits), they can double-count more courses (up to 5 in the IS+ICS case).
- To earn an interdisciplinary **minor**, students must earn at least 15 credits in the minor program that are not used to fulfill requirements for another major or minor or a Core requirement. (By contrast, to earn a departmental minor, students must have at least 15 credits in the minor program that are not used to simply fulfill requirements for another major or minor.

AP credits and alternate course sequences:

- **Economics:** Students with a score of 5 on both Microeconomics and Macroeconomics AP exams may skip ECON 1101, but they are required to take another Economics elective (ECON 2xxx) in its place. Students with a score of 5 on either AP Micro- or AP Macro-, but not both, are required to complete the IS core Economic requirement through Principles of Economics (ECON 1101).
 - Class of 2020 students who took either ECON 1131 (Microeconomics) or ECON 1132 (Macroeconomics) should take the alternate course your senior year. Class of 2020 Economics concentrators with a score of 5 on AP Economic Statistics may substitute an upper-level elective in its place.
- **Political Science:** Students with a score of 5 on AP Comparative Politics may skip the required Comparative Politics course at BC but must take an upper-level elective in its place.
- Students with AP credits may re-take their university equivalents for IS purposes. AP credits in History may preclude a student from taking a HS core sequence that the IS major uses for HCS core. Students should be urged to take alternate courses on the approved list.
- Students must complete History I and II courses, but not necessarily a sequence (taking HIST 1005 plus HIST 1056 is fine for HS university core purposes as well as IS core purposes). An IS student could claim, for example, HIST 1005 Asia and the World I and HIST 1056 Globalization II.
- **Transfer students** from other universities may have other IS core and electives approved on a case-by-case basis by the IS Director or Associate Director.

Getting Additional Help for Students

Mental Health

BC Counseling Services

Gasson Hall 001, M-F 8:45am-4:45pm
617-552-3310

Physical Health / Disability

University Health Services

Thomas More Apart. Building (Ground floor) 617-552-3225, uhs@bc.edu

BC Office of Health Promotion

Gasson Hall 025. 617-552-9900.
healthpromotion@bc.edu

Disability Services Office

Maloney Hall 448; 617-552-3470,
disabsrv@bc.edu or deanofstudents@bc.edu

Academic Support:

Connors Family Learning Center

O'Neill Library, 2nd floor, M-Th 10:00am-9:00pm,
Fri 10:00am-3:00pm, Sun 12-8pm. 617-552-0611

Learning Resources for Student Athletes

Yawkey Athletic Center, 4th Floor,
M-F 9:00am-5:00pm. 617-552-8533

Montserrat Program

Serves students with the highest levels of
financial need.

36 College Road; M-F 9:00 am-5:00 pm.
617.552.3140 | montserrat.coalition@bc.edu

McNair Program / "Learning to Learn"

Graduate school preparation program for BC
undergrads who are both low-income and first-
generation college students.

50 College Road; M-F 9:00am - 5:00pm; 617-
552-4551; ltl@bc.edu

Title IX

Title IX officers address issues of exploitation,
intimidation, and discrimination based upon
gender, including sexual assault or sexual
misconduct of any kind.

Office for Institutional Diversity

129 Lake St., Rm 211 (Brighton Campus)

Melinda Stoops, Deputy Title IX Coordinator for
Students, records and investigates all Title IX
reports involving students. (stoopsme@bc.edu,
617-552-3482)

(Patricia Lowe, University Title IX Coordinator,
handles issues involving only faculty/staff:
patricia.lowe@bc.edu;
TitleIXCoordinator@bc.edu; 617-552-3334)

Women & Gender Services:

Women's Center

Maloney Hall 441, M-F 10:00am-4:00pm; 617-
552-3489, women@bc.edu

Women's Health at University Health Services

Ground Level - Thomas More Apartments,
Entrance located on St. Thomas More Rd.,
Hours: Tuesday-Friday by apt. 617-552-3225

BC Allies

allies@bc.edu

Spiritual Counseling/Communities

Pastoral Counseling

Rick Rossi, LCSW and campus minister:
McElroy 227; rick.rossi@bc.edu' (617) 552-6592.

Service-Immersion and Solidarity

For info on 4Boston, Appa, Arrupe, Global Public
Health, Habitat for Humanity, Ignatian Solidarity
Network, and Magis:

bc.edu/offices/ministry/socialjustice.html

Student Faith Groups (multi-faith)

via Mission & Ministry:

bc.edu/offices/ministry/interfaith/StudentFaithOrg
anizations.html