International Studies

at Benedictine University

Why study international studies at Benedictine?

We are reminded every day that our world is becoming increasingly interconnected, and boundaries once defined by water or language no longer exist. The trend toward a merging of financial, trade, cultural and political processes increases the need for emerging citizens and professionals to have international knowledge and understanding. As an International Studies major, you will learn about the political and economic aspects of globalization while applying a global perspective to real world situations.

You will attain the knowledge to critically analyze economics, market structures, trade theory and barriers, exchange rates, and human population growth and its impact on the Earth's resources. You will also develop an understanding of the interaction of politics and economics in different cultures.

You will use simulation techniques in a class called "Model UN" to develop an appreciation of the function of the United Nations and major political, economic and social issues on the global agenda. In another course, "Geography and Cartography," you will use computer software to explore connections between geography and contemporary political, social and economic issues.

Embedded within the interdisciplinary program is a requirement to develop proficiency in a modern language beyond the third-year level. In addition to basic vocabulary, grammar and structure, you will engage in extensive writing practice and improve your ability to use and manipulate a language with a high degree of accuracy, flexibility and assurance. In addition, you will develop an ability to respond to the cultural challenges that you may face if you seek the opportunity to live in another culture.

Education Abroad is another unique requirement of the International Studies major. Spending time abroad will not only provide an opportunity to gain greater insight into global, political, economic and social systems, but also attract the attention of employers interested in graduates with international experience. At Benedictine University, an Education Abroad experience can be achieved by participating in a partnership exchange program, a standard education abroad program, a short-term faculty-led program or a service learning program.

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the major, it is also possible for students to pursue a double major or minor within a four-year period. Possible majors or minors to pursue in addition to International Studies may include, but are not limited to, Business and Economics, Environmental Science, and English Language and Literature.

What careers are available with a degree in International Studies?

This interdisciplinary degree leads to many career options in private business, nonprofit organization and government, as well as graduate study in political science/international affairs, business, law and a variety of other fields.

Demonstrate your social conscience with a certificate in Environmental Studies.

Students with an interest in the environment can earn a certificate in Environmental Studies by choosing specific environmental-focused courses from the anthropology, biochemistry, biology, environmental science, geography, global studies, humanities, literature, management, natural science, philosophy, political science, religious studies, sociology and theology disciplines. Students will learn about the scientific, humanistic, educational and business aspects of sustainability.

Recommended Program

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies

Benedictine University recently reformed its undergraduate curriculum and implementation begins in Fall 2014. This recommended program of study is an example only and subject to change.

FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Mathematics (MATH 105, 108 or 110)	3
Modern Language*	3
Religious Studies Core elective	3
Introduction to the American Political System	3
	15
Speech Communication	3
Research Writing	3
Model United Nations	3
Modern Language*	3
Natural Science Core elective	3
	15

JUNIOR

Economics elective	3
Political Science elective	3
Physical Science Core elective	3
Converging Hemispheres (HUMN 240)	3
Philosophy Core elective	3
	15
Introduction to International Business	3
Study Abroad experience	3
Political Science elective	3
Contemporary World (HUMN 250)	3
Natural Science Core elective	3
	15

SOPHOMORE

Macroeconomics	3
Introduction to International Relations	3
Modern Language*	3
Fine Arts or Music Core elective	3
Mediterranean World (HUMN 220)	3
	15
Microeconomics	3
Modern Language* or Literature Core elective	3
Anthropology 208 or 210	3
Baptism of Europe (HUMN 230)	3
Anthropology 200 or Geography 106	3
	15

SENIOR

Psychology or Sociology	3
Electives	12
	15
Electives	15

*The number of modern language courses required depends on placement. You must complete a modern language at the 200 level in order to satisfy the graduation requirements.