



# School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

## PROGRAMS, CENTERS, AND INSTITUTES



Center for Global Economic  
and Environmental  
Opportunity



The India Center



Intelligence Community  
Center for Academic  
Excellence



Kurdish Political Studies  
Program



Lou Frey Institute

# Orientation Book

2022-2023



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## About the School

The School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs (SPSIA) is comprised of faculty, academic programs, and centers, institutes, and programs dedicated to specialized missions. SPSIA covers a wide range of issues and topics, you can read more about the school in our most recent [Annual Report](#).

This booklet will provide a general overview of the requirements of our majors, minors, and certificate programs. Additionally, you can find information about opportunities to make the most out of your time at UCF.

**Welcome to UCF and SPSIA!**

## SPSIA Undergraduate Advising Services

Within the School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs (SPSIA) we offer a full-service advising to our undergraduate students through our Undergraduate Advising Services team. Advisors provide guidance with program requirements, schedule planning, identifying internships, planning for graduate/law school, study abroad opportunities, and referrals to other resources around UCF to help maximize your chances of academic success. **Early and frequent** contact with your academic advisor will ensure you accomplish more than just getting a degree.

While we are able to answer some questions related to the General Education Program (GEP), transfer credits, and language proficiency, these requirements or courses, may fall outside the School and are best handled by appropriate advising or academic offices. We will guide you in finding these answers, in most cases this will mean working with our advising partners in the College of Sciences Advising Services (COSAS).

To make an appointment with an advisor in our School use our request form linked [here](#).

### **SPSIA Advising Office**

Howard Phillips Hall, Room 215

Email: [PSAdvising@ucf.edu](mailto:PSAdvising@ucf.edu)

Charge On!

Nick

Nicholas Schenk

Head of Undergraduate Advising Services

School of Politics, Security, & International Affairs



## General Information about Majors/Minors/Certificates

### Political Science Major

	American Politics Track	IR-Comparative Track	Prelaw Track	Intelligence & National Security
Core Classes:	POS 2041 American National Government (GEP) POS 3703 Scope & Methods of Political Science			
Electives: <i>Area A = American Politics &amp; Policy Classes</i> <i>Area B = IR &amp; CP Classes</i> <i>Area C = Political Theory Classes</i>	<p>Area A</p> <p>Area A</p> <p>Area A</p> <p>Area A</p> <p>Area B</p> <p>Area B</p> <p>Area C</p> <p>Area C</p> <p>Any Area</p> <p>Any Area</p>	<p>Area B</p> <p>Area B</p> <p>Area B</p> <p>Area B</p> <p>Area A</p> <p>Area A</p> <p>Area C</p> <p>Area C</p> <p>Any Area</p> <p>Any Area</p>	<p>POS 4284</p> <p>Con Law I <u>or</u> II</p> <p><u>or</u> Int'l Law</p> <p>Area A</p> <p>Area A</p> <p>Area B</p> <p>Area B</p> <p>Area C</p> <p>Any Area</p> <p>Any Area</p> <p>Any Area</p>	<p>INR 2002</p> <p>CPO 3103</p> <p>POS 4407</p> <p>Intelligence Elective</p> <p>Intelligence Elective</p> <p>Intelligence Elective</p> <p>Area A</p> <p>Area B</p> <p>Area C</p> <p>Any Area</p>
Exit Requirement:	POS 4961 Exit Course (semester of graduation)			
Total Credits:	<b>All Tracks Require 36 Total Credits (12 Classes) + POS4961 (0 hours)</b>			

#### Foreign Language Requirement

All tracks of the Political Science major require that a demonstrate a one-year proficiency of a **college-level** foreign language. You can test out of this requirement through the [University Testing Center](#) either by FLATS (non-credit bearing) or CLEP (credit bearing).



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## *International & Global Studies*

Basic Requirements:	INR 2002 International Relations-Theory & Practice POS 2041 American National Government (GEP)
Core Requirements:	CPO 3103 Comparative Politics GEO 3471 World Political Geography INR 4008 Global Perspectives INR 4603 International Relations Theory POS 3703 Scope and Methods of Political Science
Electives:	3 Regional Elective Courses 3 Functional Elective Courses
Exit Requirement:	POS 4961 Exit Course (Semester You Graduate)
Total Credits	<b>IGS BA Requires 39 Total Credit Hours</b> (*# see notes below)

### Foreign Language Requirement

The International & Global Studies major requires an additional foreign language requirement. Students in this major must demonstrate a two-year proficiency in a foreign language **at the college-level**. If you are already proficient in a foreign language, you can take the Student Assessment of Language Form (SALF) assessment through the [Department of Modern Languages and Literature](#). This is the **only** test that provide the necessary proficiency to satisfy this requirement. Students must first obtain the SALF from College of Arts and Humanities Student Advising Office by emailing [CAHSA@ucf.edu](mailto:CAHSA@ucf.edu).

### Minor Requirement

International & Global Studies majors are also required to complete an approved minor to complete this major. You can find a list of approved minors on the UCF Catalog page.



Minors

Minor	Hours	Required Courses	Electives	2 yrs lang?
Political Science	18	POS 2041 US Govt	PS upper level	No
Pre-Law	18	POS 2041 US Govt, POS 4284 Judicial Process	IL/Con Law, PS upper level	No
Global Peace	18	EUH 3651 War & Society INR 4060 Causes of War	Various PS & History	No
Diplomacy	18	AMH 4513 US Great Power INR 4030 Diplomacy INR 4102 US Foreign Policy	Various PS & History	No
Terrorism Studies	18	DSC 4012 Terrorism INR 4084 Pol Terror	Various upper level, including area studies	No
Intelligence & Nat'l Security	18	INR 2002 IR Theory & Practice POS 4407 Intel Community 2 Additional Intel courses	PS & CJ	No
Int'l & Global Studies	21	INR 4008 Global Perspectives GEO 3471 World Political Geo	PS, Area Studies, other	Yes
European Studies	21	CPO 4101 Pol of the EU LIT 3082 European Fiction	PS, Econ, Lit, History, other	Yes



*Overlap Policy*

Some minors have restrictions on the number of courses that can overlap with major requirements. While this information can be found on the catalog pages for each minor, be aware that the myKnight Audit system does not reflect this policy. Therefore, you are **strongly encouraged** to work with an advisor to review your audit occasionally to get an accurate reflection of your remaining requirements.

**Certificate Programs**

Certificate	Hours	Required Courses	Electives	2 years lang?
Diplomacy	15	AMH 4513 US Great Power INR 4030 Diplomacy INR 4102 US Foreign Policy	Various PS & History	No
Intel & Nat Sec	12	INR 2002 IR Theory & Practice POS 4407 Intel Community 1 Additional Intel course	PS & CJ	No
Civics Teaching	12	POS 3272 Civic Engagement POT 3206 Political Ideas and the U.S. Constitution SSE 4042 Teaching Social Science	None	No
Kurdish Studies	12	CPO4400 Kurdish Politics or ASH 3244 History of the Kurds	PS, History, & others	No
Politics of Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Identity	12	POS 4622 Politics & Civil Rights or PUP 3314 Minorities in Amer. Pol	Various	No





## Course Planning and Scheduling Tips

### *American National Government*

POS 2041 – American National Government is a core prerequisite for many of the courses offered by SPSIA. Transfer and FTIC students have often already completed this course; however, if you have not yet taken the course, you should take this course in your first semester at UCF to avoid any difficulty getting registered in other courses. You may take American National Government in the same semester you take other SPSIA courses.

### *Scope and Methods of Political Science*

Students are **strongly advised to avoid** taking POS 3703 – Scope and Methods of Political Science in their first semester. While this is a core course, it is not a prerequisite for other courses.

### *Prelaw Track Scheduling Considerations*

Students majoring in the Prelaw track of the Political Science major **should avoid** taking the following courses **together**:

POS 3703 – Scope and Methods of Political Science

POS 4084 – Judicial Process and Politics

POS 4603 – American Constitutional Law I OR POS 4604 – American Constitutional Law II

### Note About Constitutional Law Courses

American Constitutional Law I and II are not sequential courses, they are merely different topics. Therefore, you do not need to take Con Law I before Con Law II.

### *Foreign Language*

It is recommended that students start their foreign language sequence as soon as possible. Students should start with 1120C of their preferred foreign language unless they plan to test out of the requirement. IGS majors should check with the Department of Modern Languages and Literature before selecting a language, not all languages offered reach the needed 2 year proficiency.

### *Course Load Recommendation*

Full-time students should aim to take four classes in Fall and Spring semesters. However, if you work full-time or have full-time responsibility elsewhere (child or family care, community commitments, etc.), you should consider taking fewer courses. Students who are employed full-time should limit themselves to two courses. Be smart about the amount of work you take on and honestly assess the time constraints you face. **This is academic advice**, question about financial aid requirements should be addressed to the UCF Office of Student Financial Assistance (see [Financial Aid Disclaimer](#)).



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## Course Modes

Students can take classes through [multiple modalities](#) at UCF (except those in UCF Online). For example, you can take courses in-person (P), online (W), or mixed mode (M). Therefore, you can consider taking some courses in-person and some online in the same semester. This is especially encouraged for those students with long commutes.

## Courses at The Downtown Campus

Majors in SPSIA cannot take lower level courses (example: POS 2041) at the Downtown campus unless enrolled in Downtown programming. No programs offered by SPSIA are considered Downtown and SPSIA does not offer courses on the Downtown campus.

## Course Days, Times, and Location

When building your schedule, pay special attention to:

- When in-person classes meet.
- Location, especially if you schedule courses back-to-back.

Be strategic when building your schedules. Also, be honest with yourself about your preferences. If you have a difficult time waking up early, do not schedule classes that meets in the morning.

## *“What Classes Should I Take?”*

This is the most common question students have for advisors. Unlike some majors, Political Science and International & Global Studies provide broad opportunities to specialize based on your unique interests. While each major does have core classes that you must take, you are going to take a lot of SPSIA elective courses. Therefore, when you start thinking about your schedule for the upcoming semesters, you should start with one key question: “what classes sound interesting to me?” Answering this question will allow you to build a tentative schedule, then meet with your advisor to confirm this schedule will allow you to continue progressing in your major. This also allows for the advisor to identify related programming or recommendations for additional courses.

## Financial Aid Disclaimer

This is generalized academic advice. SPSIA Undergraduate Advising Services does not provide advising relating to financial aid, scholarship requirements, or student account issues. For advising about these issues, you should contact the following offices:

**Financial Aid**  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
844-376-9160  
[finaid@ucf.edu](mailto:finaid@ucf.edu)

**Account Balances and Fees**  
Student Account Services  
407-823-2433  
[studentaccounts@ucf.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@ucf.edu)



## High Impact Practices

To maximize your prospects as you move towards your next step (post-graduation), whether it be employment or continuing your education, students should consider taking advantage of various opportunities while at UCF. You can make an advising appointment to talk more about any of these opportunities using our appointment request form found [here](#).

### *Internships*

Students can receive academic credit for taking part in internships outside of UCF. There are various resources available to search for available internships. UCF Career Services offers the Handshake search engine where students can seek internships. Additionally, students can schedule appointments with advising staff to discuss search resources. Finally, our Internship Coordinator, **TBD**, is a valuable resource for internship information. The Internship Coordinator is also the person who will help you register for academic credit once you receive an internship offer. You can find more information about this on our website - [Internships](#).

### *Study Abroad*

UCF has many opportunities to Study Abroad. Studying Abroad helps students demonstrate adaptability to working in new environments while providing the opportunity to see the world. This is a particularly valuable experience for students who wish to work in diplomacy, intelligence and national security, or other international spheres. You can work with the UCF [Study Abroad office](#), as well as [SPSIA's exchange programs](#).

### *Honors Undergraduate Thesis*

The Honors Undergraduate Thesis program (HUT) gives students the opportunity to demonstrate self-direction and critical analysis skills while receiving guidance from a SPSIA faculty member. The successful completion of the HUT program allows student to graduate with an Honors designation. For more information about the HUT program, contact the [Honors Research](#), SPSIA Advising, or our HUT Coordinator, [Dr. Mirilovic](#).

### *Directed Independent Research*

An alternative to the HUT program is directed independent research. Students interested in exploring a particular topic or independently studying a specific topic not offered as a course can work with a faculty member to conduct independent research for academic credit. The [Office of Undergraduate Research](#) ([our@ucf.edu](mailto:our@ucf.edu)) hosts an annual event where students can present their research and be considered for awards and fellowships. OUR also offers financial support for students conducting and presenting their research at academic conferences.



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## *Join Student Organizations*

A great way to interact with students in SPSIA is to join student organizations. SPSIA has several possible organizations for a variety of interests. You can find information about membership requirements on the on the [SPSIA website](#).

## *Senior Scholars Program*

Considering getting a master's degree or Ph.D.? Then you should consider taking part in the Senior Scholars program. The program gives students the opportunity to experience graduate-level course work prior to completing their bachelor's degree. The following qualifications must be met to take part in the program:

- 3.3 GPA in political science courses
- Completion of 18 political science credits or a political science minor
- Completion of 90 credit hours (senior standing)
- Be in good academic standing with the university
- Completion of POS 3703 with a B (3.0) or higher

For more information about the Senior Scholars program, please visit the [Senior Scholars website](#) which also has the application form.



## Accessing Advising Services at UCF

### *SPSIA Undergraduate Advising Services*

SPSIA Undergraduate Advising Services provides advising services to our majors with questions about scheduling and high impact practices (described previously). You can request an in-person or virtual appointment using a [Qualtrics form](#). Once you submit the form, you will receive an appointment time in your Knights email in one or two business days. The office is located in 215 Howard Phillips Hall and is open from 9:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. You can also reach us via email at [psadvising@ucf.edu](mailto:psadvising@ucf.edu).

### *Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence*

For students interested in careers in the U.S. Intelligence Community, SPSIA is home to the Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (ICCAE). The ICCAE provides multiple events to help students maximize their chances of joining the U.S. Intelligence Community following graduation. The ICCAE invites speakers, offers scholarships, and many other services. Students interested in these opportunities should get on their mailing list by reaching out to [icca@ucf.edu](mailto:icca@ucf.edu) and follow updates and review services on [their website](#). You can also request a meeting with the [ICCAE advisor](#) for career advising.

### *Prelaw Advising*

For students interested in attending law school after graduation, UCF provides access to a dedicated prelaw advising office. This office provides a variety of services to help students prepare for law school, including application preparation, LSAT prep tools and guidance, among others. In addition, students can contact designated SPSIA pre-law faculty. They are listed on the SPSIA website. To reach out to the UCF [Office of Pre-Health and Pre-Law Advising](#).

### *Career Services and Experiential Learning*

The Career Services office is available to students who wish to explore careers, prepare resumes and cover letters as you begin to transition to full-time careers following graduation. They can also help you explore potential international internships. They are also a useful resource for finding internship opportunities through their Handshake platform. You can find out more information about the resources they offer on [their website](#).

Additionally, if you find yourself wondering, “what can I do with this degree?” SPSIA provides resources exploring the myriad career options available to people who graduate with one of our majors on the [SPSIA website](#).

You should be thinking about your career goals as early as possible so that you can tailor your academic experience to meeting these goals.



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### *Knights Major Exploration and Transition Center (KMETC)*

If you find yourself reconsidering your major, KMETC is the place for you. Their advisors and peer-mentors help students explore other major opportunities at UCF. It is not uncommon for

students to reconsider their major and this center will help make you aware of the myriad opportunities at UCF. Learn more about their resources on [their website](#).

### *Pre-Graduate Knights*

Students interested in going to graduate school have access to the Pre-Graduate Knights program. This is particularly helpful for first-generation college students. This program helps students prepare for the graduate school application process. The program provides a forum for students to work together toward a shared goal while receiving program-specific guidance from advisors. You can find more information about their program on [their website](#).

### *Office of Prestigious Awards*

The Burnett Honors College at UCF houses the Office of Prestigious Awards. This program exists to help students apply for recognizable scholarships and fellowships such as the Fulbright Scholars program. This resource is available to students who are interested in learning more. You can learn more about their resources on [their website](#).



## Tips for Making the Most Out of Advising & Resources

### *Use Advising Services Early and Often*

You should start using these many services available to you early in your college career and often. As you see from the list, there are many, many resources at UCF that can help you achieve academic success and prepare for your future. If you do not use them, you cannot benefit from them. So, **start today!**

### *Know Why You're Meeting with an Advisor*

Before making an appointment with an advisor, have an idea about what you want to talk about. This helps your advisor tailor the meeting to address specific questions. It is rarely possible to address schedule planning, internships, study abroad, and other things in a single meeting. So, it is prudent to come into each meeting with a singular focused topic. You can always make multiple appointments. Additionally, it is not beneficial to schedule a meeting and say, "I don't know what I'm interested in, but I just thought I should meet with an advisor."

The second part of that statement is absolutely true, you should meet with an advisor. However, you should come prepared with specific questions or topics that you want to cover so your advisor can use the meeting time efficient and effectively. Advising is a service which can be utilized in a variety of ways, but how well you are prepared for a meeting, and how much time you spend reflecting and exploring your interests can determine the outcomes and if you feel your needs were met.

### *Start Planning Early*

If you haven't already, you should start thinking about your plans for the future. Start thinking about what you want from life after college, what your next step will be as well as long term goals. UCF also has several [resources](#) to help you explore your interests and start planning.

### *Get to Know your Professors!*

Utilize the office hours your professors offer. Meet with them to ask questions about careers, graduate school, and other opportunities. Meet with them when you're struggling in your classes. Many students consider options after graduation that require recommendation letters and professors may be less likely to write a letter for you if they're not familiar with you as a person, as well as a student. Getting to know your professors also opens opportunities for some of the high impact practices discussed earlier such as research.