



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs

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SPSIA Strategic Plan 2022-2027

Vision: SPSIA aspires to be a pre-eminent center of expertise about politics, government, and international affairs in Florida. SPSIA pursues national and international recognition for excellence in scholarship and education on politics, security, and international affairs and prepares a diverse student body for career and life success as engaged citizens and leaders.

Mission: SPSIA advances the understanding of politics, security, and international and global affairs across the domains of teaching, research, and service.

We prepare students for careers and to act as engaged citizens, equipping them with knowledge and the critical thinking and decision-making skills necessary to make a positive impact on politics and government at the local, state, national, and international levels. SPSIA's diverse faculty and centers cultivate cutting-edge research agendas and expertise that address society's biggest challenges and earn recognition across academia, government, and the public and private sectors.

We serve the needs of the student body, Central Florida community, country, and world through innovative programming, partnerships with public and private actors, and active centers and institutes within the school.

Strategic Priorities and Goals:

Excellence in teaching at all levels and modalities

- Improve graduation and retention rates of undergraduate majors, and reduce curriculum related roadblocks that cause hardship or delay for UCF undergraduate students.
- Review and further develop undergraduate curricula to facilitate student success in seeking employment in growing sectors of the economy and graduate/professional school.
- Promote objective analysis, critical thinking, civil discourse, and community engagement in undergraduate and graduate courses.
- Actively encourage more students to undertake a high impact practice including Honors Undergraduate Thesis, internships, and study abroad opportunities.

- Recruit, retain and graduate outstanding MA and PhD students while helping them secure academic and non-academic positions commensurate with their degrees.

National and international impact in research

- Publish high-quality scholarship in top political science and interdisciplinary peer-reviewed research outlets.
- Maintain and further develop research supporting national security including space policy.
- Encourage research as pedagogy and integration of research knowledge into instruction including through the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.
- Increase external research funding including by providing and enhancing internal grant funding opportunities, especially the ones with an interdisciplinary focus.

Scholarship, teaching, partnerships, and programming that engage with metropolitan, state, national, and global needs and opportunities

- Meet workforce needs through certificate programs and collaborations across campus including in the areas of national security and intelligence and research methods.
- Enhance and promote the UCF brand by organizing public events and having faculty share expertise outside of academia including media interviews, speaking engagements, and public scholarship.
- Enhance and promote activities of SPSIA programs, centers and institutes as they establish and expand connections and collaborations with industry, community, and public partners locally, nationally, and globally.
- Expand connections with alumni to pursue greater engagement and philanthropy opportunities.

Equip students with diverse backgrounds and goals with the intellectual and professional resources to succeed

- Pursue policies to generate an inclusive environment for students with diverse backgrounds that is conducive to their success
- Increase the number of students who seek and attain prestigious external awards and gain internationalized experiences such study abroad and student exchange programs.