



**School of Public and
International Affairs**



Academics

Bachelor's Programs

Geography (B.A./B.S.)
International Studies (B.A.)
Political Science (B.A.)
Urban Affairs (B.A./B.S.)

Master's Programs

International and
Comparative Politics (M.A.)
Public Administration (M.P.A.)

Certificate Programs

Geographic Information Science
Nonprofit Administration

Minors

Geography
International Studies
Legal Studies
Nonprofit Administration
Political Science
Urban Affairs

Our Mission

To prepare students to be engaged, effective citizens and professionals capable of understanding and affecting complex social issues in today's globalized environment. We achieve this mission by:

- **emphasizing critical thinking, professional writing, and analytical skills**
- **promoting ethics, justice, and cultural competence**
- **balancing theory, practice, and research**
- **analyzing power, politics, administration, and organizations**
- **assessing geopolitical relations in regional, national, and global affairs**
- **demonstrating the value of public service and cultural competence**
- **understanding the rule of law, legal systems, and public policy**
- **and encouraging collaborative partnerships.**

Our Vision

The School of Public and International Affairs promotes multidisciplinary collaboration for studying public policy, politics, law, governance, management, and other public interests at the local, state, national, and international levels. We inspire students, practitioners, citizens, and scholars to analyze, influence, and solve pressing societal concerns.

The School of Public and International Affairs is committed to the values of cultural competence, diversity, inclusion, knowledge, and academic freedom. We endeavor to create and maintain a culture that reflects these values.

Value-Added Opportunities

Students can enrich their learning beyond the classroom—and set themselves apart in their careers through a variety of internships, service-learning, classes, student organizations, and honor societies.

INTERNSHIPS

With worldwide connections to successful alumni and leaders in their areas of expertise, the faculty and staff of the School of Public and International Affairs work with students to achieve each student's career goals.

We help students identify internship opportunities to complement their classroom work, apply their knowledge, and develop valuable interpersonal and career-related skills.

Here are just a few of the organizations through which our interns have enhanced their learning beyond the classroom:

- **state legislators' offices**
- **congressional district offices**
- **federal agencies**
- **city governments in the Dayton region and throughout Ohio**
- **governmental and nongovernmental policy advocacy agencies and organizations in Washington, D.C.**
- **chambers of commerce**
- **regional planning commissions**
- **regional transit authorities**
- **nonprofit organizations**
- **private sector companies**

SERVICE-LEARNING

Service is part of our school's culture. Our faculty and staff volunteer in wide variety of ways, from serving on boards to helping neighborhoods and organizations. For example, service is a requirement for the Certificate in Nonprofit Administration. Candidates for the certificate are required to join a chapter of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance student association, which plans workshops and raises funds for various area nonprofits.

Through service-learning, students engage with the community, and learn as participants at events, programs, and activities. Wright State's Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement, and the College of Liberal Arts Civic Engagement Committee, support service-learning and other forms of community engagement. Their work, in combination with that of units across campus, has earned the university recognition from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for advancing student learning through community engagement.

Organizations and Honor Societies

MODEL UN

Wright State University's Model United Nations program is more than a club, and more than a class. It is a team built on fun, camaraderie, and a shared commitment to excellence. Since the late 1970s, Wright State University's award-winning Model UN team has been an international leader at the annual National Model UN Conference in New York City. The classes and conferences teach skills of teamwork, problem solving, diplomacy, public speaking, technical writing, and research. Visit wright.edu/modelun for more details.

MODEL ARAB LEAGUE

Wright State's Model Arab League club, founded in 2012, competes against regional schools at the annual Ohio Valley Model Arab League Conference and has also won several awards.

HONOR SOCIETIES

The School of Public and International Affairs is home to local chapters of Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society, and Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. Our faculty and staff encourage all students to achieve their highest potential. We recognize our most outstanding students with an invitation to participate in one of our leading honor societies.

PLS

Political Science

Address the pressing concerns of society

Students of political science study governments: how they evolve, why they exist, the forms and social functions they assume, why they change, and who controls them. To understand governments, students learn how people behave in their relationship to government, what they do to influence government, how government attempts to influence people's behavior, and beliefs about what government does. Students also gain an appreciation of how cultural, historical, and economic forces affect the evolution of governments and mass political behavior.

As one of the largest programs in the College of Liberal Arts, the Bachelor of Arts degree in political science offers three areas of instruction: American politics, international and comparative politics, and public law and political theory.

Students gain valuable experience through internships; we can assist students in completing internships with state legislators, congressional district offices, Dayton-area metropolitan governments, and governmental and nongovernmental policy advocacy agencies and organizations in Washington, D.C.

Students use their degree and internship experience to land jobs in government, law, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector. Our graduates work as policy analysts, foreign service officers, intelligence analysts, attorneys, campaign managers, university administrators, and entrepreneurs.

Regardless of one's major, anyone seeking to understand government and politics should consider a dual major with political science or a political science minor.

LAW AND POLITICS

Interested in politics and the law? We offer students a legal studies minor to complement any major. Consult our pre-law advisor who will help guide you through the stages and answer questions you have to prepare for law school and a successful career in law.

wright.edu/polsci



“Coming to Wright State was the best decision I could have ever made. I love it with all my heart. Everyone is so welcoming. And there are so many opportunities and resources, especially for Latino students. There are people here who genuinely want to help you, genuinely want you to succeed. One of my professors encouraged me to participate in a high-level communication honors class to challenge my potential. They truly care about students. I feel it. I see it.”

—Stephanie Patino-Garfias
Political Science major, interested in immigration reform; attended the Emerge Latino Conference in Washington, D.C.; helped start a youth group for the League of United Latin American Citizens; helped raise funds for the families of students kidnapped in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico

Urban Affairs

Improve the quality of life for all in American communities

Students majoring in urban affairs examine the roles, functions, and operations of local government and nonprofit organizations, and the problems facing many American cities such as homelessness, poverty, food deserts, and the lack of economic development. These challenges are addressed through an innovative curriculum, service-learning, civic engagement projects, internships, and dedicated faculty.

Students have the option to pursue a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in urban affairs. Students may also choose a general degree or specialize in urban management, nonprofit management, or urban planning. Faculty advisors can help with these choices.

Graduates with our urban affairs degree have gone on to become government administrators, nonprofit

managers, city planners, and consultants for public, nonprofit, and business organizations.

Students may also choose to pursue a certificate in Nonprofit Administration and/or a certificate in Geographic Information Science to further enhance their skills and résumés. A minor in urban affairs is open to all majors by completing 18 credit hours in the department.

Urban affairs majors and students seeking a certificate in Nonprofit Administration receive valuable internship experience. The internship requirement is waived for students who are already working full-time in their career field and on a case-by-case basis. Interns have recently been placed in city government offices, chambers of commerce, regional planning commissions, and regional transit authorities.

CERTIFICATE IN NONPROFIT ADMINISTRATION

Wright State University is the only university in Ohio to offer an undergraduate and graduate certificate in Nonprofit Administration that enables students to become a Certified Nonprofit Professional through the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA). Through the NLA program, students learn to apply leadership skills by combining coursework with hands-on experience, such as internships, volunteer opportunities, NLA Student Association leadership activities, and professional development workshops.

wright.edu/cnp-certificate

“My degree will allow me to work for the government or in nonprofit management or switch back and forth. I knew I wanted to do something in the nonprofit sector. The Nonprofit Leadership Alliance student chapter at Wright State is a great way to make professional contacts, volunteer, and gain a nationally recognized certification before you graduate.”

—Katie Rossman

Urban Affairs major, concentration in nonprofit management; president of Wright State’s Nonprofit Leadership Alliance; Peace Corps intern in Washington, D.C., through the Washington Center; volunteered in Zanzibar and Tanzania



GEO

Geography

Discover the connection between people and places

Geography is the perfect major for students interested in the location and interrelationships of human and physical phenomena on the earth's surface. Geography includes a wide range of knowledge and skills from the design and art of mapping data to the analysis of spatial data. New technologies have expanded the application of geospatial skills to fields such as government, agriculture, law enforcement, and economic development. The nation's defense also depends on geospatial information, and the military invests heavily in developing new geospatial tools and the analysis of geospatial data.

The innovative curriculum of our undergraduate geography major addresses the breadth of contemporary geography. The program includes the study of

cultural, economic, physical, and regional geography, with topics such as cartography, climatology, landform analysis, remote sensing, settlement theory, spatial interaction, geographic information systems, and urban morphology.

Students have the option to pursue a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in geography. A minor in geography is open to all undergraduate majors by completing 18 credit hours in geography. Faculty advisors can help you with these choices.

With Geographic Information Science (GIS) being one of the most marketable skills today, our graduates have gone on to become city and regional planners, members of the military intelligence community, and transportation analysts, to name a few.

CERTIFICATE IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE (GIS)

The Geographic Information Science (GIS) certificate is open to all Wright State undergraduate and graduate students as well as non-Wright State students. The GIS certificate focuses on the latest developments in geographic data collection and analytic techniques. The GIS certificate benefits students seeking careers in intelligence, planning, marketing, land development, transportation, and other diverse fields.

wright.edu/gis-certificate

wright.edu/geography



"After a four-year stint in the Army, I sat in on classes at Wright State. I was attracted by the small class sizes, the accommodating professors, and the welcoming nature and support of the university's Veterans Affairs Office. I became interested in the geography program, especially the mapping and satellite imaging courses that related to my experience in Afghanistan. I also earned my master's degree in Earth and Environmental Sciences with a focus on geophysics."

**—Jared Shank (B.S. '09, M.S. '13)
*director, Military and Apprenticeship Initiatives and Special Projects Articulation and Transfer, Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network, Ohio Board of Regents; past president, Ohio Diggers***

IS

International Studies

Understand our complex and rapidly changing world

International studies majors take a multidisciplinary approach to understanding how cultural, historical, political, and economic forces affect international relations.

The international studies program provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success. Our students not only learn a second or third language, they learn to be policy analysts and creative problem solvers. The program also promotes civic engagement and social responsibility.

With its emphasis on global perspectives, a minor or dual major in international studies complements any major and prepares students to be informed global citizens.

International studies majors and minors select courses from a wide variety of disciplines and tailor their programs of study to fit their academic interests and career goals. Students choose from one of six

areas of concentration: diplomacy and peace studies, area studies, comparative cultures, international economic affairs, global gender studies, and research intelligence analysis. Students are encouraged to study abroad, do internships or co-ops, and join our Model United Nations team because we recognize the value of experiential learning in preparing our graduates for successful careers.

A variety of career paths are available to graduates with an international studies degree. Our graduates have gone on to careers in public service and the private sector, and in governmental and non-governmental organizations including the U.S. Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Air and Space Intelligence Center, the Peace Corps, the United Nations Division for Women, and Doctors Without Borders.

A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

Wright State offers a wide variety of study abroad options in every region of the world. Live in another country for a few weeks, a semester, or a year. Accelerate and perfect your Arabic in Morocco or Spanish in Costa Rica. Interview human rights activists in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand. Intern for a multinational corporation in Paris, Berlin, or Beijing. Study abroad offers a wealth of opportunities that provide not only a competitive career advantage for international studies majors, but a life experience that is priceless.

wright.edu/intl-studies

“My elective classes in international relations and political science inspired me to major in international studies. I’m fascinated by different cultures and how their interdependence impacts our world. The professors at Wright State take the time to know their students. They really make their teaching relevant to our goals. I plan to pursue a career in international law and human rights and be a representative for my community.”

—Salha El-Shwehdi

*International Studies major;
dual citizen U.S. and Libya;
team member, Wright State’s
Model Arab League; member
of Wright State’s Muslim
Student Association*





Master of Public Administration

Develop leadership skills for the nonprofit, public, and private sectors

Nationally accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, the Wright State Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) program is the leading public administration program in the region. Our program prepares students to be successful public and nonprofit administrators, as well as leaders in our diverse, multicultural regional environment and beyond.

The M.P.A. program is designed to meet the needs of experienced professionals seeking career advancement and students planning to begin a career in public service. All M.P.A. classes are offered in the evening and meet once each week to accommodate working professionals. Full-time students who take two courses per semester can complete the required 36 semester hours in two years.

Most of our graduates are employed in public service positions within three months of graduation. Many are leaders in government and nonprofit organizations throughout southwest Ohio. Here are a few examples of our graduates' careers: city and township managers, nonprofit directors, government department heads, city planners, fire and police chiefs, economic development specialists, volunteer managers, and policy analysts.

Our large and active network of alumni is a vital resource for M.P.A. students. Alumni serve on the M.P.A. Advisory Board and as adjunct instructors. They also provide a variety of internship and employment opportunities to M.P.A. students.

M.P.A. STUDENTS MAY PURSUE:

- a dual master's with the **Master of Arts in International and Comparative Politics**
- **Social and Applied Economics graduate programs**
- the nationally recognized **Certificate in Nonprofit Administration**
- the graduate certificate in **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

wright.edu/mpa



"I chose Wright State's M.P.A. program because of its emphasis on strengthening our local community through practical, hands-on experiential learning. I came to the program with the goal of achieving a leadership position to make and implement policies for the underserved. Within one year of graduation, I became the leader of a local nonprofit agency. I credit this success to hard work and the attainment of my M.P.A. degree. The opportunity to earn a certification in nonprofit administration was the icing on the cake!"

**—Paula Cosby (M.P.A. '12)
*Executive Director,
Clothes That Work***



ICP

Master of Arts in International and Comparative Politics

Make a mark on the world with a career in international diplomacy, intelligence, or international service

The International and Comparative Politics master's program helps to prepare the next generation of scholars, activists, and public servants. The program is structured enough to include the most important theories and approaches in international relations and comparative politics, and flexible enough to meet a diverse array of students' interests.

We strongly encourage students to incorporate international experiences in their formal course of study including study abroad and internships to enhance their global perspective and jump-start their careers. The culmination of the degree program is a thesis or applied project, which is completed in close consultation with program faculty. Students may also pursue practicum credit, including internships, in conjunction with their capstone course.

Broad and diverse career options await our graduates. Our distinguished alumni are working around the world in foreign service, education, business, the public sector, and other important fields. They expertly deal with issues and lead programs in diverse areas ranging from gender issues, sports diplomacy, environmental sustainability, human trafficking, economic development, and terrorism.

ICP STUDENTS MAY PURSUE:

- **a dual degree with the Master of Public Administration***
- **graduate certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**
- **graduate certificate in Nonprofit Administration**
- **certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)**

**Students need to submit a separate application to the M.P.A. program. Upon acceptance to both degree programs, students will have advising appointments with the directors of each program.*

wright.edu/icp

“After completing my history degree, the 9/11 terrorist attacks triggered my interest in the causes of terrorism and led to my master’s thesis. My work at the institute is very interesting and I apply what I studied in my master’s program. We train members of the U.S. military bound for overseas duties at U.S. embassies on the intricacies of their jobs, such as logistics and military sales, as well as courses on the history, culture, politics, and religion of the region where they are assigned.”

—Joshua Cummins

B.A., M.A., '12 Model UN team; intern for Congressman Mike Turner; studied abroad in Germany, Poland, Morocco, and Spain; Middle East research assistant, Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base





School of Public and International Affairs

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