

# B.A. in International Studies

[Overview](#)[Degree Requirements](#)

## Description

The B.A. in international studies has an interdisciplinary curriculum that focuses on the connections between politics, economics, and culture at the international level, providing students with an understanding of how the contemporary world works and with the tools to succeed in it. In addition to a regional concentration (East Asia, Europe, Latin America, or Middle East), Croft students select a thematic concentration: global economics and business, global health, international governance and politics, or social and cultural identity.

Croft students pursue advanced proficiency in a foreign language as an integral part of their studies. Accelerated language programs are currently available in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Korean, Russian, and Spanish. Students may also choose to study Italian, Japanese, and Portuguese.

A degree from Croft can lead to a career in law, international business, journalism, or education and research, to employment with agencies such as the U.S. Foreign Service and the United Nations, or to work in the nonprofit sector, nongovernmental organizations, and the intelligence community. More than half of the graduates continue their university studies in professional or graduate schools.

## Minimum Total Credit Hours: 120

### General Education Requirements

The general education/core curriculum requirements for this program are those defined by the College of Liberal Arts. All international studies majors are to fulfill their social sciences distribution requirements by taking Econ 202 and Econ 203, and their mathematics distribution by taking Math 271. With consent of the academic adviser, students may substitute Math 261 for Math 271.

**Modern Language Requirements** Croft students pursue advanced proficiency in a foreign language as an integral part of their studies. Accelerated language programs are currently available in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Korean, Russian, and Spanish. Students may also choose to study Italian, Japanese, and Portuguese. Students must complete at least one three-hour class every semester in the student's primary modern language, building towards a high level of proficiency to be tested in the senior year by taking the Oral Proficiency Exam (OPI). A change of this primary modern language has to be approved by the advisor. The advisor may waive the requirement of continuous language learning, but for no more than one semester before completing the major requirements.

## Course Requirements

A major in international studies for the B.A. degree consists of 44 semester hours, including Inst 101, 110, 111, 200, 381, 421, 422, 431, and two out of the following five: Inst 201, 203, 205, 207, and 209. This must include the 200-level course corresponding to the student's regional concentration.

Students must take 6 hours at the 300 level or above in one geographic region and 6 hours at the 300 level or above in a single thematic concentration, and 9 hours in a 300-level elective course approved for the major. With the exception of certain students who have already studied for at least one full semester or more in their geographic region of concentration, all students must spend at least one semester in an approved study abroad program.

Students exempt from the study abroad requirement are exempt from the Inst 110 and 111 requirements.

### Introductory course (3 credit hours) - one course:

- Inst 101 Introduction to International Studies

### Core courses (6 credit hours) - two of the following courses, including the course corresponding to the student's regional concentration:

- Inst 201 African Studies
- Inst 203 East Asian Studies
- Inst 205 European Studies
- Inst 207 Latin American Studies
- Inst 209 Middle Eastern Studies

### Regional courses (6 hours) - two additional approved courses in one geographic region

### Thematic courses (6 credit hours) - two approved courses both drawn from one of the following areas:

- Global economics and business
- Global health
- International governance and politics
- Social and cultural identity

### Research Methods course (3 credit hours):

- Inst 381

### Elective course (9 credit hours):

- three additional course selected from upper-division courses approved for the major

### Intercultural Communication (2 credit hours, Z-graded) - two courses

- Inst 110 - Intercultural Communication: Pre-departure



- Inst 111 - Intercultural Communication: Re-entry

**Senior thesis (6 credit hours) - two courses**

- Inst 421 Research Seminar I
- Inst 422 Research Seminar II

**OPI Language Proficiency Exam (0 credit hours, Z-graded)**

- Inst 431 Oral Proficiency Interview

**Other Academic Requirements**

A minimum grade of C is required in the 42 graded hours of course work required by the international studies major.  
The international studies major requires no minor.

