

MASTER OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS (MGA) DEGREE

Program Learning Outcomes for the MGA Degree

Upon completing the MGA degree, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate leadership, communication, and research skills to conduct independent studies enabling them to understand and formulate public policy recommendations in the international arena.
2. Apply quantitative skills to data analysis to make policy recommendations.
3. Describe real-life experience in international public policy development by participating in an internship.
4. Assess the social responsibilities of governments, non-governmental organizations, corporations, and individuals in the global twenty-first century.
5. Analyze and develop new and innovative solutions to emerging challenges in the global community.

Requirements for the MGA Degree

The MGA degree is a non-thesis master's degree. For general university requirements, please see [Non-Thesis Master's Degrees](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-non-thesis-masters-degrees/>). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/>). Students pursuing the MGA degree must complete:

- A minimum of 36 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate-level study (graduate semester credit hours, coursework at the 500-level or above).
- A minimum of 24 graduate semester credit hours must be taken at Rice University.
- A minimum of 24 graduate semester credit hours must be taken in standard or traditional courses (with a course type of lecture, seminar, laboratory, lecture/laboratory).
- A minimum residency enrollment of one fall or spring semester of part-time graduate study at Rice University.
- No courses from transfer credit. For additional departmental guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 2) tab.
- The requirements for one area of specialization (see below for areas of specialization). The MGA degree program offers three areas of specialization:
 - [International Political Development](#) (p. 2), *or*
 - [International Political Economy](#) (p. 2), *or*
 - [International Security](#) (p. 2).
- The required Graduate Field Internship.
- The required Capstone project.
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.67 or higher in all Rice coursework.
- A minimum program GPA of 2.67 or higher in all Rice coursework that satisfies requirements for the non-thesis master's degree.

Please Note: Courses offerings may vary. Some listed courses may not be offered every year, and others may be offered that satisfy the

requirements with pre-approval. Students should consult their academic advisors before enrolling and check for any course prerequisites.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor or, where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the department or program's [Official Certifier](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/>). Additionally, these course substitutions must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the MGA degree		36

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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Core Requirements ¹

GLBL 501	GLOBAL SYSTEMS I	3
GLBL 502	INSTITUTIONS & DEVELOPMENT	1.5
GLBL 507	DECISION MAKING UNDER UNCERTAINTY	3
GLBL 515	ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY U.S. FOREIGN POLICY	1.5
GLBL 523	QUANTITATIVE APPLICATIONS IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS	3
GLBL 524	MACROECONOMICS IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY	3
GLBL 525	INTERNATIONAL SECURITY	3

Area of Specialization

Select 1 from the following Areas of Specialization (see [Areas of Specialization](#) below);

- International Political Development
- International Political Economy
- International Security

Graduate Field Internship Requirement

GLBL 519	MASTER OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS INTERNSHIP ³	6
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Capstone Requirement

GLBL 520	MASTER OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS CAPSTONE ⁴	3
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Total Credit Hours		36
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Footnotes and Additional Information

- ¹ Core Requirements must be completed during the first year of study.
- ² The Area of Specialization requirement must be completed during the second year of study.

- 3 Students are required to complete a minimum eight-week extensive field experience in which they intern at one of a variety of internationally-based or internationally-focused governmental and nongovernmental organizations, international commissions, embassies, agencies, or corporations. The internship will provide students valuable real-world application of their degree with the goal of facilitating their employment in these organizations. While students may complete internships during the course of the program, the official Graduate Field Internship Requirement, GLBL 519, may only be completed in the final semester of the program.
- 4 In the second year, students must select a topic of concentration and pursue in-depth research which delves into the real-world, policy aspects of the topic.

Areas of Specialization

Students must complete a minimum of 3 courses (9 credit hours) from one area of specialization. Students should choose coursework according to their individual academic interests and career goals. No more than 1 course (3 credit hours) at the undergraduate level (300- or 400-level) can be used toward the area of specialization. The area of specialization requirement must be completed during the second year of study.

Area of Specialization: International Political Development

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Select 3 courses from the following:		
9		
GLBL 531	WORLD POLITICS AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE	
GLBL 532	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE	
GLBL 533	SUSTAINABILITY AND GLOBAL ISSUES	
GLBL 542	INTERNATIONAL MACROECONOMIC POLICY FOR MASTER'S STUDENTS	
GLBL 543	ENERGY GEOPOLITICS	
GLBL 553	INTERNATIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN A MULTI-RISK, INTER-CONNECTED WORLD	
GLBL 555	HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN SECURITY IN A CHANGING MIDDLE EAST	
Total Credit Hours		9

Area of Specialization: International Political Economy

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Select 3 courses from the following:		
9		
ANTH 540	NEOLIBERALISM AND GLOBALIZATION	
GLBL 531	WORLD POLITICS AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE	
GLBL 532	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE	
GLBL 533	SUSTAINABILITY AND GLOBAL ISSUES	
GLBL 542	INTERNATIONAL MACROECONOMIC POLICY FOR MASTER'S STUDENTS	
GLBL 543	ENERGY GEOPOLITICS	

GLBL 555	HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN SECURITY IN A CHANGING MIDDLE EAST
HIST 603	AMERICA IN THE MIDDLE EAST
POLI 504	INTRODUCTION TO MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATION
SOCI 524	RACE AND ETHNICITY SEMINAR
Total Credit Hours	
9	

Area of Specialization: International Security

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Select 3 courses from the following:		
9		
ANTH 540	NEOLIBERALISM AND GLOBALIZATION	
GLBL 531	WORLD POLITICS AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE	
GLBL 543	ENERGY GEOPOLITICS	
GLBL 551	INTERNATIONAL POLICY ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY	
GLBL 552	INTERNATIONAL SECURITY: DE-RISKING NATIONAL THREATS AND BUSINESS THREATS	
GLBL 553	INTERNATIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN A MULTI-RISK, INTER-CONNECTED WORLD	
GLBL 554	UNDERSTANDING TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM	
GLBL 555	HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN SECURITY IN A CHANGING MIDDLE EAST	
HIST 603	AMERICA IN THE MIDDLE EAST	
POLI 504	INTRODUCTION TO MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATION	
Total Credit Hours		9

Policies for the MGA Degree
Global Affairs Graduate Program Handbook

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, Global Affairs publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2024_25/Global_Affairs_Masters_Graduate_Handbook.pdf.

Admission

- Applicants to the Master of Global Affairs degree program are required to submit:
- Statement of purpose
 - Professional resume
 - Three letters of recommendation
 - Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, with official degree conferral date
 - Applicants are recommended, but not required to submit scores from either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT).

- Approved TOEFL scores for applicants whose native language is not English and who did not receive a degree from a country in which English is the official language of communication.

Foreign Language Proficiency

Students who expect to complete their degree program with a particular regional focus in mind are expected to be proficient in one of the primary languages of that region. Proficiency is defined as the ability to read and speak the language. This requirement can be met in one of three ways:

- By passing a language proficiency exam administered by the Rice Language Center.
- By achieving a grade of B+ (3.33 grade points) or better in an intermediate language course at Rice. Taking this class does not count toward the 36 credit hours total for degree completion.
- By graduating from a high school or university where a language other than English was the primary language of instruction.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit \(https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer\)](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Requests for transfer credit must be approved for Rice equivalency by the appropriate academic department offering the Rice equivalent course (corresponding to the subject code of the course content) and by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS). Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the MGA degree should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- Transfer credit coursework cannot be applied or used to meet any of the degree program's course requirements.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Global Affairs website: <https://mga.rice.edu/>.

Opportunities for the MGA Degree

Fifth-Year Master's Degree Option for Rice Undergraduate Students

In certain situations and with some terminal master's degree programs, Rice students have an option to pursue a master's degree by adding an additional fifth year to their four years of undergraduate studies.

Advanced Rice undergraduate students in good academic standing typically apply to the master's degree program during their junior or senior year. Upon acceptance, depending on course load, financial aid status, and other variables, they may then start taking some required courses of the master's degree program. A plan of study will need to be approved by the student's undergraduate major advisor and the master's degree program director.

As part of this option and opportunity, Rice undergraduate students:

- must complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree and the master's degree independently of each other (i.e. no course may be counted toward the fulfillment of both degrees).

- should be aware there could be financial aid implications if the conversion of undergraduate coursework to that of graduate level reduces their earned undergraduate credit for any semester below that of full-time status (12 credit hours).
- more information on this *Undergraduate - Graduate Concurrent Enrollment* opportunity, including specific information on the registration process can be found [here \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/undergraduate-graduate-concurrent-enrollment/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/undergraduate-graduate-concurrent-enrollment/).

Rice undergraduate students may have the option to pursue the Master of Global Affairs (MGA) degree. For additional information, students should contact their undergraduate major advisor and the MGA program director.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Global Affairs website: <https://mga.rice.edu/>.