

Seattle Central College Transfer Major Planning Guide

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

What can I do with a major in international relations?

Students interested in international relations may go on to work in many fields, especially business, government, and non-profit organizations. The communication, analytical, intercultural, and problem-solving skills international relations students learn are valued in many professions, but a bachelor's degree in international relations does not necessarily prepare students for entry into a specific career. Here are some possible career options for international relations majors:

- Diplomat
- Foreign service officer
- International banker
- Import/export specialist
- Journalist
- Professor
- Program coordinator or analyst for international non-governmental organizations
- Public policy analysis

Interdisciplinary majors with an international focus can be called “international relations/studies/affairs” “global studies,” and other titles. When searching for programs in this field, be sure to include a variety of search terms, and also consider area studies programs or concentrations available within the political science major. Students interested in international issues should consider what skills they may need for their future career plans (languages, quantitative skills, experience abroad, theoretical background) and look for a major that will require or allow courses that provide these needed skills.

Majors or concentrations related to international relations include:

- Area studies (Asian, Latin American, etc.)
- Global development studies
- Global studies
- International affairs
- International political economy
- International security studies
- International studies

How can I prepare at Seattle Central for a major in international relations?

Students planning to major in international relations at a baccalaureate institution may take courses in **economics, foreign language (unless they are already proficient in at least two languages), world history, political science, and statistics, as well as general education requirements**, to prepare to transfer. Specific requirements can vary considerably depending on the transfer university, so it is strongly recommended that students work with an advisor at Seattle Central as well as advisors at the universities where they are considering transferring to ensure they take the appropriate classes to be prepared to enter the major when they transfer. Students planning to major in international relations should consider earning the Associate of Arts – DTA degree to prepare to transfer.

Consider an emphasis to your associate degree before you transfer, such as Equity and Social Justice. This can enhance your resume, personal experience and be something you put into your personal statement. You may

even already have completed it without knowing it! For questions on how to plan your emphasis, please contact your advisor.

Tips for Success as an International Relations Major

- Although the social science prerequisite requirements for an international relations major may be fairly minimal, many programs will require proficiency in a foreign language as well. Students who do not already speak at least two languages should start language study early in their community college career and take as many courses as possible. Students should plan to complete three-course sequences at the same college whenever possible.
- Some international relations programs require statistics; others have no specific math requirement beyond the college-level math required for graduation. Nevertheless, if your math skills are weak or it has been some time since you took math, do not put off getting started! It is best to finish your math requirement early in your college career.
- Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.
- Many universities offer an international relations or studies major, but the concentrations they offer vary. If you want to study international security or human rights, for instance, make sure your intended transfer university offers that focus.

What bachelor's degrees in international relations are available in Western Washington?

Pacific Lutheran University – Global Studies, area studies

University of Puget Sound – Global Development Studies, International Political Economy, area studies

Seattle University – International Studies, area studies

Seattle Pacific University – Global Development Studies

University of Washington, Seattle - Jackson School of International Studies offers 7 majors and 16 minors in international studies, area studies, and religious studies

University of Washington, Bothell & Tacoma – Global Studies major, minor in Human Rights

Many universities offer international relations as an undergraduate major. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> to find international relations programs in Washington State or around the country.

Next Steps:

- Research the universities you are interested in attending and the prerequisite classes they require for your major.
- Meet with an advisor to choose a transfer degree, discuss prerequisites, and plan what classes you need to take in the next quarter or two.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options