

APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

College: Liberal Arts

Department: Political Science and Public Administration

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- José Villalobos

I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.

 _____ 04/21/2026 _____

Signature

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Selfa Chew Meléndez

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

 _____ 5/5/2026 _____

Signature

Date

COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEAN – Charles Boehmer

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

 _____ 5/6/2026 _____

Signature

Date

CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 4/20/2026

From: Gaspare Genna, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Political Science and Public Administration *Gaspare M. Genna*

Through: José Villalobos, Chair, Political Science and Public Administration

Through: Charles Boehmer, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts *Charles Boehmer*

To: Selfa A. Chew Chair, Chair, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Curriculum Committee *Selfa A. Chew*

Proposal Title: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

Select the proposal content (select as many as apply) and provide the rationale.

Content

- New program or Program Change
 - Bachelor's
 - Master's
 - Doctoral/Professional
 - Certificate
 - Fast Track
 - Minor
 - Concentration/Track
- New Course
- Closure (program, certificate, minor, concentration)
- Change
 - CIP Code
 - Program/certificate SCH
 - Course Title
 - Course Description
 - Graduate Program Admission Requirements

Rationale

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs represents a strategic re-designation of our existing BA in Political Science with a concentration in international politics. Upon approval, the international politics concentration will be discontinued within the Political Science degree. This change involves no curricular modifications, new course development, faculty workload reallocation, or altered degree requirements, only the degree title itself.

updated 07.07.25

This re-designation offers several strategic advantages. First, it enhances program visibility and student recruitment by providing greater clarity about the degree's focus and content. Second, it signals to employers that graduates possess specialized expertise in international affairs, strengthening career prospects and professional positioning. Third, it leverages UTEP's distinctive geographic advantage as a gateway to Mexico and Latin America, aligning with the university's strategic identity. Finally, the re-designation directly supports Strategic Plan Goal One by providing students with an excellent and engaged education that is clearly articulated and market-responsive.

The demand for international affairs professionals continues to expand as globalization intensifies. Graduates pursue careers in diplomacy, international development, global business, international service, policy analysis, and related fields across governmental, nonprofit, and private sectors. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, management analysts, many of whom work in global strategy, are projected to grow 10% from 2024 to 2034, with a median salary of \$99,410. Similarly, positions in international development and policy analysis show comparable growth trajectories over the next decade.

Persistent global challenges, including climate change, migration, geopolitical conflict, and economic interdependence, ensure sustained long-term demand for professionals trained in international affairs. These complex issues require individuals capable of analysis, negotiation, and cross-border solution implementation with a keen awareness of cultural and political sensitivities in each local context. The BA in International Affairs prepares students for meaningful careers while contributing to national and global stability by cultivating informed, ethical, and effective leaders equipped for the demands of an interconnected world.

NEW BACHELOR'S OR MASTER'S LESS THAN 50% NEW CONTENT

Effective June 1, 2023, an online planning notification form must be submitted for academic associate, bachelor's, master's, doctoral and professional degrees prior to submission of the full degree program proposal ([TAC 2.41](#)).

- Planning notification for all **doctoral and professional** programs must be submitted **one year** prior to submission of the full proposal ([TAC 2.143](#)).
- Multidisciplinary, applied, and embedded associate degrees are exempt from the planning notification requirement.

Provost Office Use Only

Budget Committee Approved

Y

N

N/A

Budget and Enrollment spreadsheet must be approved by the Provost and University Budget Committee

Institution: The University of Texas at El Paso

Proposed Degree Program Effective Date: Academic Year 2027-28

Degree Level: Undergraduate

Proposed Degree Designation Abbreviation (e.g. MA): BA

updated 07.07.25

Proposed Degree Designation Description (e.g. *Master of Arts*): Bachelor of Arts

Proposed Degree Program Title: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

Proposed CIP Code: [Texas CIP codes](#) (*THECB no longer accepts CIP codes that end in '99'*) 45 .0901 .00

CIP Code Name: International Relations and Affairs

--If the CIP code selected is outside the norm for the discipline, please provide a brief justification: N/A

Administrative Unit (e.g. Department of Biology): Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Proposed SCH Required: 120

--If the proposed program exceeds the maximum SCH allowed for the specified degree level (e.g. 120 SCH for a bachelor's degree), please indicate the rationale: N/A

--If the institution has an existing degree program with the same CIP code and degree designation, provide a brief description of how this degree program is distinct (use the institution's program inventory for reference, if needed).
N/A

How many *new* courses will be developed for the program? 0

Estimated *new* faculty or instructor FTE required to support the program in the first 5 years? 0

Note: The two questions above are meant to be initial indicators of how much new content is being developed for the new program. THECB staff understand that new courses may not necessarily indicate new content and will follow up with institutions if there are additional questions.

Does the program include any *new* degrees or certificates not yet submitted **that are fully embedded** within the degree program not yet approved for delivery? Yes No

If yes,

Degree or certificate: Degree Certificate

Degree/Certificate Title: N/A

Degree/Certificate Designation: N/A

SCH Required: N/A

CIP Code: N/A

Proposed effective date: N/A

Modality

Please identify the modalities in which a student will be able to **fully complete** the program (select all that apply):

Note: Refer to the approved [distance education definitions](#)

In-person

Hybrid

100% Online

If modality = in-person or hybrid delivery

Will more than 50% of the program's instruction take place at an off-campus location? Yes No

If yes,

Name of off-campus location: N/A

Address of off-campus location: N/A

Planned funding model for the first 5 years of the program:

Formula-funded

Self-supported

Other (please describe)

Texas Direct Fields of Study (Bachelor's degrees only)

If the proposed CIP code for the bachelor's degree program aligns with one of the approved Texas Direct Fields of Study, please provide the Directed Electives courses accepted for the Texas Direct degree.

Required Attachments:

- Full Curriculum
- Recommended Course Sequence (UG only)
- Catalog Copy (Provide detailed description of degree requirements such as total number of SCH, minimum GPA, major projects, practicums, etc. as applicable)
- Admission Requirements (Graduate only)
- Marketable Skills (UG only)
- Field of Study Directed Electives (If applicable)

Proposal Contact:

Name: Gaspare Genna

Email: ggenna@utep.edu

Phone: x6066

ATTACHMENTS

Curriculum for New Programs

Degree Plan for Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

Required Credits 120

Required Courses		
Subheading: Required		
Course prefix and number	Course name	Course SCH
POLS 2310	Introduction to Politics	3
POLS 2311	American Govern & Politics	3
POLS 3300	Research in Political Science	3
POLS 3339	Comparative Political Systems	3
POLS 3360	International Relations	3
International Affairs Major Electives		
Subheading: Select 7 courses (21 hours) from the list below		
Course prefix and number	Course name	Course SCH
POLS 3323	Internatl & Comparative Courts	3
POLS 3325	Peru: Politics of Surprise	3
POLS 3326	Politics of East Asia	3
POLS 3332	Political Geography	3
POLS 3334	Politics in World Regions	3
POLS 3337	Latin American Politics	3
POLS 3345	Democracy and Democratization	3
POLS 3361	International Security	3
POLS 3362	International Law and Politics	3
POLS 4328	Politics of China	3
POLS 4329	Elections Around the World	3
POLS 4330	Foreign Policy of the U.S.	3

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POLS 4337	The Politics of Mexico	3
POLS 4339	US-Latin American Relations	3
POLS 4343	Politics of Brazil	3
POLS 4346	Russia's Challenges/21st Cent	3
POLS 4347	European Union Politics	3
POLS 4348	Politics/Developing Countries	3
POLS 4350	Sp Topics in Comparative Gov	3
POLS 4363	North American Relations	3
POLS 4364	Internat'l Political Economy	3
POLS 4365	International Organizations	3
POLS 4366	Sp Topics/Internat'l Relations	3
POLS 4367	Ethnic Conflict and Civil Wars	3
POLS 4368	Conflict Analysis	3

Course Sequencing Template Undergraduate Only

Semester 1		
Course Prefix & Number	Course Name	Course SCH
	Communication (Core)	3
HIST 1301	HIST 1301 - History of US to 1865 (Core)	3
	Mathematics (Core)	3
	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Core)	3
	Component Area Option (Core)	3
Semester 2		
Course Prefix & Number	Course Name	Course SCH
	Communication (Core)	3
HIST 1302	HIST 1302 - History of US Since 1865 (Core)	3
	Creative Arts (Core)	3
	Language, Philosophy, & Culture (Core)	3
	Free Choice Elective	3
Semester 3		
Course Prefix & Number	Course Name	Course SCH
POLS 2310	Intro to Politics (Core)	3
	Life & Physical Sciences Lecture with Lab (Core)	3
	Component Area Option (Core)	3
	Course Toward Minor	3
	Free Choice Elective	3
Semester 4		
Course Prefix & Number	Course Name	Course SCH
POLS 2311	American Govt & Politics	3
	Life & Physical Sciences Lecture (Core)	3
	Course Toward Minor	3
	Block Elective - Any Area	3
	Free Choice Elective	3

Semester 5		
Course Prefix & Number	Course Name	Course SCH
POLS 3300	Research in Political Science	3
POLS 3339	Comparative Political Systems	3
POLS 3360	International Relations	3
	Foreign Language Sequence 1	3
	Humanities Block Elective	3
Semester 6		
Course Prefix & Number	Course Name	Course SCH
	International Affairs Major Elective	3
	International Affairs Major Elective	3
	International Affairs Major Elective	3
	Foreign Language Sequence 2	3
	Free Choice Elective	3
Semester 7		
Course Prefix & Number	Course Name	Course SCH
	International Affairs Major Elective	3
	International Affairs Major Elective	3
	Course Toward Minor	3
	Course Toward Minor	3
	Fine & Performing Arts Block Elective	3
Semester 8		
Course Prefix & Number	Course Name	Course SCH
	International Affairs Major Elective	3
	International Affairs Major Elective	3
	Course Toward Minor	3
	Course Toward Minor	3
	Social & Behavioral Sciences Block Elective	3
TOTAL HOURS		120

Catalog Copy

Program Name-

Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

Program Description- Describe the program and the educational objectives

The Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs prepares students for dynamic careers in diplomacy, international organizations, global business, public service, international non-profit sectors, and advanced graduate study. This program illuminates the political, economic, cultural, and legal forces shaping global interactions while developing deep understanding of political and economic systems worldwide and thereby equipping graduates with the analytical ability and practical expertise to thrive in an interconnected world.

Students build a robust foundation in political science, comparative politics, and international relations, enhanced by specialized electives exploring regional politics, global security, democratization, institutional development, international law, international development, and foreign policy. The curriculum integrates theoretical frameworks with applied research, cultivating the critical thinking and problem-solving capabilities essential for addressing complex international and transnational challenges.

Graduates of the BA in International Affairs will be able to:

1. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of political systems, international relations theories, and comparative political frameworks.
2. Analyze global issues and domestic politics across nations through integrated political, economic, and cultural lenses.
3. Apply rigorous research methodologies to investigate international and comparative political phenomena.
4. Evaluate foreign policy decisions and international institutions within their historical evolution and contemporary significance.
5. Communicate with clarity and impact in written and oral formats on international affairs topics.
6. Exhibit cultural intelligence and ethical reasoning when engaging complex international challenges.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the BA in International Affairs are prepared for diverse roles in the global arena, including:

- Diplomatic and Foreign Service Careers (e.g., U.S. State Department, embassies, consulates)
- International Organizations (e.g., United Nations, World Bank, International Nongovernmental Organizations)
- International Business and Trade (e.g., multinational corporations, import/export firms)
- Public Policy and Government Agencies (e.g., policy analysis, legislative support)
- Think tanks, consulting, and strategists
- Policy Analyst/Data Analyst
- Intelligence Analyst
- Humanitarian and Development Work (e.g., international aid organizations)
- Research and Academia (e.g., graduate studies, teaching, policy research)
- Journalism and Media specializing in international affairs

Admission Requirements (Graduate programs only)- Give a detailed description of admission requirements such as minimum GPA, letters of recommendation, writing samples, test scores, etc.

N/A

Marketable Skills (UG only)- List the skills, with some detail, students will gain from completing the program. When appropriate include EDGE strengths.

1. Confidence: Cultivate self-assurance by recognizing and leveraging distinctive talents, abilities, skills, and qualities.

2. Communication: Achieve mutual understanding through the effective exchange of information, ideas, and perspectives across diverse contexts.
3. Critical Thinking: Analyze and evaluate complex issues to solve problems, challenge assumptions, and develop informed, evidence-based positions.
4. Global Awareness: Understand and engage with diverse peoples, cultures, and ideas from around the world that shape our interconnected communities.
5. Leadership: Think and act strategically and creatively to unite others toward shared objectives and collective achievement.
6. Problem Solving: Identify and implement solutions to multifaceted or complex challenges through systematic analysis and innovative thinking.
7. Research: Conduct systematic investigation and analytical evaluation of information to address specific research questions and generate knowledge.
8. Social Responsibility: Act with ethical integrity and accountability for the benefit of society and the advancement of the public good.
9. Social Skills: Navigate interpersonal interactions effectively through professional communication, cultural awareness, and appropriate verbal and non-verbal expression.
10. Teamwork: Contribute as an engaged and effective group member, collaborating productively to achieve common goals.
11. Writing: Communicate ideas with clarity, precision, and purpose through well-structured written expression.

Degree Requirements- Give a detailed description of degree requirements such as total number of SCH, minimum GPA, major projects, practicums, etc.

The degree requires a minimum GPA of 2.0. See Attached for detailed degree requirements.

Sample four-year plan (UG only) – provide a semester-by-semester degree plan

See Attached