

Master of Arts in National Security Studies

The Master of Arts in National Security Studies provides executive-level education in national and international security policy with concentrations in homeland security, intelligence analysis, cyber security, terrorism studies, and regional security studies. Knowledge gained in this online master’s program is useful for careers in the defense industry, military, U.S. and foreign governments, and the private sector.

The program includes a solid foundation in agency operations and theory, and studies the complex problems found in today’s uncertain security environment. You will be taught by experienced faculty who remain active in the national security arena, helping to ensure relevancy in this continuously expanding field.

Graduates of the program are career professionals found across the national and international security community as civilian and military leaders, policymakers, action-officers, analysts, instructors, and consultants. This program also provides a strong academic stepping stone for our doctoral programs in global security and strategic intelligence.

Degree Program Objectives

In addition to the institutional and degree level learning objectives, graduates of this program are expected to achieve these learning outcomes:

- Appraise classic and contemporary theories, strategies, doctrines, and procedures related to the causes, conduct, and termination of armed conflict and the maintenance of peace.
- Assess and predict traditional and non-traditional threats to national and international security.
- Compare the structures, functions, capabilities, and activities of national and international security community members.
- Conduct advanced research and compose professional and academic analyses on issues critical to national and international security.

Degree at a Glance

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Core Requirements		18
Select one of the following concentrations:		12
General Concentration (p. 1)		
Cyber (p. 2)		

Homeland Security (p. 2)	
Regional Security Studies (p. 2)	
Security and Intelligence Analysis (p. 3)	
Terrorism Studies (p. 3)	
Elective Requirements	3
Final Program Requirements	3
Total Semester Hours	36

Degree Program Requirements

Core Requirements (18 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NSEC503	U.S. National Security ¹	3
SSGS500	Research Design and Methods	3
NSEC501	Institutions of National Security	3
NSEC504	International Security	3
NSEC610	National Security and Globalization	3
NSEC613	Current and Emerging Threats to U.S. National Security	3
Total Semester Hours		18

¹ Required as the first course in this program.

Students must choose a concentration for this degree program and may select from the General Concentration, Concentration in Cyber, Concentration in Homeland Security, Concentration in Regional Security Studies, Concentration in Security and Intelligence Analysis, or Concentration in Terrorism Studies.

General Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

This general concentration allows you to select from more than two dozen different concentration courses offered within this program, enabling you to create your own focused area of study.

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Select 4 courses from the following:		
CMRJ526	Drug Cartels and the Narcotics Threat	12
HLSS502	Homeland Security and Defense	
HLSS505	Security Risk Management	
HLSS522	Weapons of Mass Destruction and the New Terrorism	
HLSS523	Domestic Terrorism and Extremist Groups	
INTL501	Strategic Intelligence	

INTL502	Collection
INTL507	Intelligence Operations
INTL508	Intelligence Analysis
INTL613	Intelligence and Homeland Security
INTL646	Transnational Crime and Narcotics
INTL652	Terrorism: Assessing the Past to Forecast the Future
IRLS600	Strategic Geography and Geopolitics
IRLS603	Politics and War
IRLS613	International Negotiation
IRLS631	Government and Security in Korea
IRLS655	Latin American Security Issues
IRLS660	Seminar in Middle East Politics and Security
ISSC630	Advanced Cybercrime Analysis
ISSC631	Cyber Ethics: Privacy and Intellectual Property
LSTD517	Law, Ethics and Cybersecurity
MILS671	The Non-State Soldier
NSEC506	Cyber Policy and Practice in National Security
NSEC608	Regional Security Cooperation
NSEC611	Covert Action and National Security
NSEC612	National Security and Diplomacy
NSEC614	Political Psychology of Terror Groups
SSGS595	Internship Program
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Total Semester Hours	12

Concentration in Cyber (12 semester hours)

Analyzes the cyber discipline from a multidisciplinary perspective. Topics include: current cyber policy and strategy for non-practitioners in a national security framework; laws related to intellectual property, civil litigation, criminal prosecutions, and cybersecurity; and the privacy, ethical, economic, and societal issues that face today’s information-entrenched society.

Objective

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to analyze the cyber discipline from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
LSTD517	Law, Ethics and Cybersecurity	3
NSEC506	Cyber Policy and Practice in National Security	3
ISSC630	Advanced Cybercrime Analysis	3

ISSC631	Cyber Ethics: Privacy and Intellectual Property	3
Total Semester Hours		12

Concentration in Homeland Security (12 semester hours)

Explores contemporary threats to the U.S. and the organizations, capabilities, and activities of America’s homeland defense community. Covers the efforts to prevent, prepare, and respond to the use of weapons of mass destruction, the role of risk management in the prevention of loss, and the development of drug cartels and their organization, production, and distribution networks.

Objective

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to appraise the contemporary threats to the United States; and the organizations, capabilities, and activities of the national defense community.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Select 4 courses from the following:		
CMRJ526	Drug Cartels and the Narcotics Threat	12
HLSS502	Homeland Security and Defense	
HLSS505	Security Risk Management	
HLSS522	Weapons of Mass Destruction and the New Terrorism	
HLSS523	Domestic Terrorism and Extremist Groups	
INTL613	Intelligence and Homeland Security	
Total Semester Hours		12

Concentration in Regional Security Studies (12 semester hours)

Examines the forces reshaping world politics and analyzes the institutions that are fostering new forms of global governance. Topics include the role of diplomacy in national security policy development and implementation, and the strategic, operational, and tactical elements required for conducting peace operations.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NSEC608	Regional Security Cooperation	3
Select 3 courses from the following:		
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HIST572	History of East Asia
HIST573	History of the Middle East
HIST670	History and Culture of Latin America
IRLS613	International Negotiation
IRLS615	Peacekeeping: Structure and Process
IRLS631	Government and Security in Korea
IRLS655	Latin American Security Issues
IRLS660	Seminar in Middle East Politics and Security
IRLS662	Middle Eastern Culture
MILH669	Arab-Israeli Conflict: Contemporary Politics & Diplomacy
NSEC612	National Security and Diplomacy
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Total Semester Hours	12

Concentration in Security and Intelligence Analysis (12 semester hours)

Covers advanced security and intelligence analysis methods used to convey issues critical to national and international security. Examines the forces reshaping world politics, analyzes the institutions that are fostering new forms of global governance, and discusses the current structure, function, capabilities, and contributions of individual U.S. national intelligence community members.

Objective

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to apply advanced security and intelligence analysis methods in composing professional and academic analyses on issues critical to national and international security.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Select 4 courses from the following:		
INTL501	Strategic Intelligence	12
INTL502	Collection	
INTL507	Intelligence Operations	
INTL508	Intelligence Analysis	
IRLS600	Strategic Geography and Geopolitics	
NSEC608	Regional Security Cooperation	
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Total Semester Hours		

Concentration in Terrorism Studies (12 semester hours)

Evaluates the causes of and threats from domestic and international terrorism, as well as the organizations, capabilities, and activities of the international security community in the global war on terrorism. Also analyzes U.S. and international policies for combating terrorism, terrorist tactics worldwide, and the scope of terrorism.

Objective

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to appraise the causes of and threats from domestic and international terrorism and the organizations, capabilities, and activities of the international security community in the Global War on Terrorism.

Concentration Requirements (12 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Select 4 courses from the following:		
HLSS522	Weapons of Mass Destruction and the New Terrorism	12
HLSS523	Domestic Terrorism and Extremist Groups	
INTL650	Counterterrorism	
INTL652	Terrorism: Assessing the Past to Forecast the Future	
MILS671	The Non-State Soldier	
NSEC614	Political Psychology of Terror Groups	
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Total Semester Hours		

Elective Requirements (3 semester hours)

Select from other graduate courses not taken to meet core or concentration requirements.

Final Program Requirement (3 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NSEC699	National Security Studies Capstone ¹	3
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Total Semester Hours		3

¹ Taken once all other requirements have been met. The Capstone Seminar will satisfy 3 semester hours of an elective requirement.