

International Relations

Bachelor of Arts

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Feller Center - Advising & Career Planning

As a University of Maryland student, you are an informed and active participant in your education. Therefore, you should:

- Know your benchmark/gateway and degree requirements
- Develop a graduation plan which leads to a timely graduation
- Review your academic audit and evaluate your career planning progress during your junior year
- Take appropriate actions to remove registration blocks and register on time
- Adhere to University and College policies and deadlines
- Be responsible for your academic actions and decisions

Academic and Career Planning advisors are here to assist you in meeting your educational and professional goals. Therefore, the College is committed to the following:

- Introducing you to major and University requirements upon your entrance to a BSOS major
- Providing assistance during academic difficulty
- Referring you to helpful campus resources
- Providing academic and career advising throughout your undergraduate career

Advising Resources

Feller Center - Advising & Career Planning

General questions, registration, exceptions to University policy, academic probation, limited enrollment questions, graduation concerns, career planning

2nd Floor Tydings Hall

(301) 405-1697

Advising Email: BSOSAdvising@umd.edu

Career Planning Email: BSOSCareers@umd.edu

Department Advising

Major requirements and courses, registration, internships, career questions, department permission for courses

****All IR students will have mandatory advising after 90 credits****

3104 Tydings Hall

(301) 405-4168

gvptadvising@umd.edu

International Relations B.A. Major Benchmarks

Benchmark Requirements: In accordance with University policy, the Department of Government and Politics has established benchmark requirements. Students are expected to demonstrate continuing progress in their majors by completing prerequisite or required courses with the appropriate grades within an established timeframe. Students who do not complete benchmark requirements will need to choose a new major and will not be permitted to return to the International Relations major at a later time.

Benchmark 1: Students must complete the following four courses within two semesters of entering the major:

- ☐ GVPT170 with a grade of C- or higher
- ☐ One 200-level GVPT course with a grade of C- or higher (may not be experiential learning)
- ☐ One of STAT100⁺, MATH 107, 113, 115, 120, 135, 136, or 140 with a grade of C- or higher
- ☐ Academic Writing with a grade of C- or higher

Note: At least one of the GVPT courses must not be from AP/IB/CLEP credit.

⁺STAT100 preferred

**** For IR majors, more than 3 GVPT courses per semester WILL NOT be permitted****

General Education Requirements			
Fundamental Studies			
Requirements: 15 credits	Course	Credits	Grade
AW: Academic Writing		3	
PW: Professional Writing — Taken after 60 credits		3	
OC: Oral Communication		3	
MA: Fundamental Studies Math	Benchmark Math	3	
AR: Analytic Reasoning	Could be met with Benchmark math	3	
Distributive Studies			
Requirements: 25 credits	Course	Credits	Grade
NL: Natural Sciences Lab		4	
NS: Natural Sciences		3/4	
HS: History and/or Social Sciences	GVPT170	3	
HS: History and/or Social Sciences	ECON200	3	
HU: Humanities		3	
HU: Humanities		3	
SP: Scholarship in Practice (overlap permitted with major requirement)	GVPT201	3	
SP: Scholarship in Practice (must be non-major requirement)		3	
Signature Courses (overlap permitted with Distributive Studies/Diversity)			
Requirements: 6 credits	Course	Credits	Grade
IS: Big Question		—/3	
IS: Big Question		—/3	
Diversity (overlap permitted with Distributive Studies and/or Signature Courses)			
Requirements: 4—6 credits	Course	Credits	Grade
UP: Understanding Plural Societies	GVPT200	3	
CC: Cultural Competency OR UP: Understanding Plural Societies		1—3	
TOTAL General Education Credits			
Requirements for Graduation:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Earn a C– or higher in Academic Writing and all major requirements			
<input type="checkbox"/> Earn a D– or higher in every Gen Ed course except Academic Writing			
<input type="checkbox"/> Earn a 2.0 average in all courses used to satisfy major requirements			
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 of the final 30 credits must be earned at the 300-400 level			
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 upper level major credits must be earned at UMD			
<input type="checkbox"/> At least 30 credits must be earned at UMD			
<input type="checkbox"/> Earn a cumulative 2.0 GPA in all UMD coursework			
<input type="checkbox"/> Earn a minimum of 120 credits			

IR B.A. Major Requirements		
Requirements (see go.umd.edu/IRBA)	Credits	Grade
Benchmark Requirements		
GVPT170 with a grade of C- or higher	3	
One of STAT100*, MATH107, MATH120, MATH135, MATH136, or MATH140 with a grade of C- or higher	3/4	
One 200-level GVPT course with a grade of C- or higher (may not be experiential learning)	3	
Academic Writing with a grade of C- or higher	3	
Foundational Courses [Grade of C– or higher]		
GVPT200	3	
GVPT241	3	
GVPT280 or GVPT282	3	
Methods Requirement [Grade of C– or higher]		
GVPT201	3	
Courses of Choice [Grade of C– or higher] <i>For approved options, refer to: go.umd.edu/IRBA</i>		
GVPT Course of Choice 1	3	
GVPT Course of Choice 2 300/400 level	3	
GVPT IR/CP Course of Choice 3 300/400 level	3	
GVPT IR/CP Course of Choice 4 300/400 level	3	
GVPT IR/CP Course of Choice 5 300/400 level	3	
GVPT IR/CP Course of Choice 6 300/400 level	3	
GVPT IR/CP Course of Choice 7 300/400 level	3	
Skills Requirement [Grade of C– or higher] <i>For approved options, refer to: go.umd.edu/gvptskills</i>		
1. ECON200	3	
2. Foreign Language†: Choose one: a) Elementary level course(s) b) High school transcript c) Demonstrate proficiency through elementary level	0-12	
3. Quantitative Skills	3	
4. Intermediate Foreign Language	0-6	

† Students may be eligible for an exemption from the Elementary level foreign language requirement if they completed foreign language study in high school (entire Level 3 with C– or higher) or can otherwise demonstrate proficiency.

Students are strongly encouraged to add a minor or double major, as well as participate in experiential learning opportunities such as internships, research, or study abroad.

*STAT100 preferred

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, B.A. — Graduation Plan

Year 1	Fall		Spring	
<p>Complete your graduation plan!</p> <p>Benchmark Requirements must be completed within two semesters of entering the major</p> <p>GVPT170 with a grade of C- or higher</p> <p>One 200-level GVPT course with a grade of C- or higher (may not be experiential learning)</p> <p>One of STAT100, MATH 107,113,115,120,135, 136, or 140 with a grade of C- or higher</p> <p>Academic Writing with a grade of C- or higher</p> <p>Note: At least one of the GVPT courses must not be from AP/IB/CLEP credit.</p>	Course	Credit	Course	Credit
	ENGL101 (AW: Academic Writing and Benchmark)	3	AR (Analytic Reasoning)	3
	MA: Benchmark Math (Based on Placement)	3/4	ECON200 (HS: History/Social Sciences)	3
	HU (Humanities)*	3	GVPT200 (UP: Understanding Plural Societies and 200-level Benchmark)	3
	GVPT170 (HS: History/Social Sciences and Benchmark)	3	Elective	3
	UNIV100	1	Elective	3
	Elective	3		
	Total	16	Total	15
Year 2	Fall		Spring	
Check in with your advisor regarding your benchmark progress!	Course	Credit	Course	Credit
	OC (Oral Communications)	3	NL (Natural Sciences Lab)*	4
	NS (Natural Sciences)*	3	CC (Cultural Competency)*	3
	GVPT201 (SP: Scholarship in Practice)	3	HU (Humanities)*	3
	GVPT280 or GVPT282	3	GVPT241	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
	Total	15	Total	16
Year 3	Fall		Spring	
When you're between 75—89 credits, watch out for an email from your advisors regarding your remaining degree requirements!	Course	Credit	Course	Credit
	GVPT Course of Choice 1	3	SP: Scholarship in Practice (non-major)*	3
	GVPT Course of Choice 2 300/400 level	3	GVPT IR/CP Course of Choice 3 300/400 level	3
	Quantitative Skills Requirement	3	Intermediate Foreign Language Requirement	3
	Elementary Foreign Language Requirement	4	Elective	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
	Total	16	Total	15
Year 4	Fall		Spring	
Apply for graduation!	Course	Credit	Course	Credit
	PW (Professional Writing)	3	GVPT IR/CP Course of Choice 6 300/400 level	3
	GVPT IR/CP Course of Choice 4 300/400 level	3	GVPT IR/CP Course of Choice 7 300/400 level	3
	GVPT IR/CP Course of Choice 5 300/400 level	3	Elective	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
	Elective	3		
	Total	15	Total	12
Cumulative Credits + Planned Credits = Total Credits				120

*Important Planning Notes:

- All students must take two Distributive Studies courses that will also count for the SCIS: Big Question requirement. (Big Question courses are not listed separately in this plan)
- Understanding Plural Societies courses may also fulfill a Distributive Studies category.

Last Updated: 6/3/2025