NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES PROGRAMS AT UNM

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The mission of the University of New Mexico National Security Studies Program (NSSP) is to ensure that interested students develop the knowledge, skills and relationships necessary to successfully compete for Intelligence Community and related global and national security careers. The NSSP is specifically tailored to prepare UNM students – from a broad spectrum of disciplines. The NSSP is an Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (IC-CAE) Program.
NSSP emphasizes theoretical and practical preparation in four critical areas:

(1) command of research, analysis and critical thinking skills
(2) expertise in science or professional fields, with understanding of the complex interaction between science and policy
(3) knowledge of international, regional and cultural issues of national security importance
(4) proficiency in foreign languages and context-sensitive studies
Certificate in National Security & Strategic Analysis (NSSA)

An interdisciplinary certificate designed to prepare students for careers in national security within the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) and other governmental agencies, national and international business, policy think tanks and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide.

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts -- Concentration in Global & National Security Studies (GNS)

Offered through the Liberal Arts & Integrative Studies (LAIS) program in University College. Designed for students who wish to focus on careers in research and analysis of technical issues and policy implications in global and national security.
- Annual symposium, seminars and interesting speakers on a wide range of national security issues
- Special UNM classes on security issues open to all students
- Hands-on group simulation exercises
- Career and personal development opportunities
- Access to government agency recruiters
- Internship opportunities in security related fields
- Funding for education abroad, intensive language study, and conferences, workshops and other enrichment activities
- Funded and faculty-directed research and writing projects
Over 100 enrolled student scholars with 300-400 students attending NSSP sponsored events annually

Scholar’s average GPAs at the End of Spring 2017 was 3.542

60% male, 40% female
FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR 2019

Development of a second Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts concentration in Cyber and Data Security—in process

Master’s degree in Global and National Security, sponsored by UNM Global & National Security Policy Institute—waiting final approval this fall

Establishment of a New Mexico Consortium for Critical Technology Studies based at UNM to enhance teaching, diversity and student success in STEM fields at selected higher education institutions in our state—pending funding
1. Complete or have recently completed a baccalaureate degree at UNM
2. Complete a 3-credit NSSP course *Introduction to National Security and Strategic Analysis*
3. Take 9 credit hours from a list of selected classes with at least 3 credits from *Group A - Political/Social Analysis* and from *Group B - Quantitative Analysis-STEM*
4. Complete at least 3 semesters in a single foreign language, demonstrate equivalent competency in a foreign language, or take three additional courses in Group B approved by an advisor.
5. Complete a “capstone” research project related to national security, strategic or intelligence analysis and write a research paper and present an oral brief on your topic. Students must earn at least 2 or more credits of independent study under the direction of a faculty member for the capstone project.
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts
Concentration in Global and National Security (BLA-GNS)

• Designed for students who wish to focus on major global, national and human security issues, ranging from intelligence gathering and cyberspace, to environmental sustainability, and conflict resolution.
• The emphasis is on acquiring skills in problem solving, research and analysis, technical subjects, policy-making and management, drawing from a wide variety of academic disciplines.

Careers you can pursue with this degree include:
- military officer, intelligence analyst, law enforcement, homeland security official, cyber and human security
- international business or law, intercultural communication, diplomacy, conflict resolution, international public health, geography, political science, environmental studies, economics, and teaching.
BLA-GNS Demographics:
- In existence since Fall 2017
- 13 declared students (Fall 2018)
- First degree to be awarded Spring 2019
- Average age = 23
- Average credits earned = 57
- Average GPA = 3.47
120 total hours minimum required for bachelor’s degree

18 hours of BLA-GNS Core
(all may count towards UNM Core)
PHIL156, ANTH130, AMST185, RELG107,
STAT145 or MATH162, POLS220 or 240,
CS108L, or other non-core options:
CS151L, SOC 221

37 hours of UNM Core
(16 hrs. left)

12 hours of same Foreign Language
(3 hrs. count towards UNM Core)

3 hr. Diversity Requirement #

51 hours of upper division required by the BLA program

BLA-GNS 54 hrs.

21 hours of BLA-GNS upper division electives

23 hours of free electives

BLA-GNS Contacts

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