

2025 – 2026



Josef Korbel School  
of International Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

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## Master of Arts in Global Economic Affairs

The Global Economic Affairs (GEA) program provides students with a multi-disciplinary, policy-focused examination of the global economy. *Emphasis is on political economy, not on the narrow field of economics as standardly taught in economics textbooks.* Courses within this degree focus on the complex changes underway in the global economy, including the emerging patterns of finance, trade, and investment flows and their effect on national economies; the effect of globalization on state capacity, policy autonomy, and national economic conditions; the relationship between economic, political, and social outcomes of policy choices; corporate governance, competition, and corporate social responsibility; and the politics of economic policy choices at the national and international levels, within multilateral agreements and organizations. All students within this degree receive training in advanced statistical methods, including econometrics. Students also select from a diverse collection of qualitative and quantitative skills courses.

Students pursuing the GEA degree are required to pursue a customized specialization that is tied to their intellectual and career aspirations. Students should meet with the degree director to discuss possible specializations that will meet their needs.

This degree is intended for students looking to pursue a diverse range of careers:

1. As international economic analysts for public sector agencies, such as the Department of Commerce, the International Trade Administration, Ministries of Finance, crime and security agencies such as the FBI, and state and municipal government;
2. As analysts for multilateral institutions and organizations, such as the World Bank, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, the World Trade Organization, United Nations agencies, the African Development Bank, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;
3. As researchers and analysts within non-governmental organizations, such as Oxfam, Action Aid, Accion, and Water for People;
4. As private sector economic policy consultants, political risk or international project analysts, ethical supply chain experts, and international project managers.

Students who seek a more specialized and technical training in portfolio allocation might consider creating their own “customized, flexible dual degree” with the Daniels College of Business (DCB) that allows them to earn an MS in Finance along with the GEA degree (for more information, see the [“Flexible Dual Degree Programs”](#) section of the Graduate Bulletin).

The GEA program is fully accessible to students who did not study economics as undergraduates.

### Curriculum Overview:

Candidates must complete sixty (60) credit hours.

## Degree Requirements:

### 1. Korbels Core – (4 credits):

- INTS 4091 - Great Issues in International Relations (*offered each Fall quarter; take as early in the program as possible*)

### 2. Degree Core: Three courses (12 credits):

- INTS 4310 – Foundations of International Trade\*
- INTS 4320 - International Monetary Relations\*
- One of the following:
  - INTS 4324 - International Political Economy
  - INTS 4370 – The Global Economy\*\*
  - INTS 4372 – Great Books in Political Economy

*\* INTS 4310 and INTS 4320 assume some pre-existing economics background. Students considering the GEA program or these specific courses should speak with the GEA degree directors to determine whether additional microeconomics or macroeconomics study (which can be obtained via DU/Korbels in many cases) would be beneficial prior to taking INTS 4310 and 4320. INTS 4310 and INTS 4320 are recommended prerequisites for INTS 4370.*

*\*\*INTS 4310 and INTS 4320 are recommended prerequisites for **INTS 4370**.*

### 3. Specialization: Three courses (12 credits):

Specializations are sets of three full credit courses (12 credit hours) that a student takes within their degree that are centered on a common topic, region, or degree relevant methods and must be approved by the degree director. Korbels specializations are open specializations, which is to say that they are totally customizable and can be drawn from any and all eligible University of Denver graduate courses. The key is that they must be approved on submission for graduation by a student's degree director and students are encouraged to engage their degree director early in the process on what are approvable sets of courses. Specializations do not go on transcripts, so it is possible to organize courses into more than one set of three, but for completion of degree requirement purposes, only one specialization is submitted as such on your program statement. Students who participate in a Korbels Certificate will put three of their certificate courses in their specialization and the other three in electives to fit the certificate within the 60 credit hours associated with their degree requirements. For more information on Specializations, see the Korbels Student Affairs Digication site.

### 4. Skills: Three courses (12 credits):

- INTS 4057 - Statistics
- INTS 4303 - Econometrics for Decision Making
- A total of 4 more credits (in the form of one 4 credit or two 2-credit skills courses) of INTS or PPOL skills coursework drawn from the Korbels School Skills List. GEA students must take a degree-relevant option and should get pre-approval from their degree director. This list is updated annually and can be found on the Korbels Student Affairs Digication site. Students may also utilize graduate level skills courses in other DU departments/schools with pre-approval from their degree director.

You can find more information on skills courses offered at Korbels [here](#).

5. **Internship:** Required (registered as INTS 4981, for 0 or 4 credits)
  - Please see the [Student Affairs Digication site](#) for more details
6. **Thesis (4 or 8 credits) or Substantial Research Paper (4 credits):** Optional
  - Please see the [Student Affairs Digication site](#) for more details
7. **Supporting Courses:** Students will fill out their academic program as needed to reach the minimum requirement of **60 credits** with graduate level courses in fields and areas of study related broadly but directly to international studies (public policy) or research/policy areas and/or skills already established in their required coursework. These courses can be from Korbel (INTS or PPOL) and/or other relevant graduate departments/programs associated with the University of Denver or beyond. Courses from beyond Korbel should be pre-approved by the student's academic advisor. The total number of credits allowed for the degree beyond Korbel cannot be more than 12.

**Note:** MA in GEA candidates may enroll in a **maximum** of 12 credits at the Daniels College of Business. If a student wishes to take more than 12 credits, they must apply, and be accepted, to a graduate degree program at the DCB through the DU flexible dual degree program. No more than 12 credits completed prior to acceptance into such a program may be applied toward a DCB degree. Students currently enrolled in a dual or joint degree program are not impacted by this policy.

To request permission to register for DCB classes, please contact a Graduate Business Advisor at [gradbus.advising@du.edu](mailto:gradbus.advising@du.edu). Students who register without this permission risk disenrollment from the course. All non-DCB students will be registered on a space-available basis.

**Degree Directors:**

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<https://du.digication.com/korbelgradstudents/global-economic-affairs>