



2025 – 2026

Master of Arts in International Security

The International Security curriculum provides education and practical training on issues related to the causes and consequences of foreign policies pursued by states plus the goals of non-state actors to advance their position and status in world political dynamics through violent confrontation and war or through cooperative moves towards peace. The Security Program combines traditional issues (state level threats, sovereignty, armament policies) and foundational theoretic perspectives (realism, liberalism, international law) with emerging twenty-first century problems (e.g. human security, climate change, health pandemics, humanitarian assistance, global governance) with exposure and appreciation for updated research and policy perspectives on contemporary topics to enable students to understand continuities and major shifts in the evolving global system, to foresee new threats, and imagine threat responses.

We focus on developing skill sets: written and oral communications; technical tools (graphic displays, statistical analysis) and clear, logical arguments that are essential for our graduates to be marketable practitioners in the security field—whether working in government, private industry, or the non-profit sector. We expect everyone to keep current in scholarship and policies presented in mainline journals. By completing the Security program, students will have a sufficient sense of basic concepts, theories, and approaches associated with the field with the confidence to apply this knowledge to real-world problems.

Curriculum Overview:

Candidates must complete sixty (60) quarter-hour graduate-level credits.

All Korbel MA students enroll in INTS 4091, Great Issues in International Affairs, in their first year of enrollment (i.e. during their first three terms of taking courses in the graduate program), which is offered only in the Fall term. All International Security students must also register for INTS 4735 Defense and Security Methods and INTS 4057 Statistics during their first year.

Degree Requirements:

1. Korbel Core (4 credits):

- INTS 4091 - Great Issues in International Relations
(offered Fall quarter only)

2. Degree Core. three courses (12 credits): *(take all 3 during first year)*

- INTS 4700 - U.S. Foreign Policy
- INTS 4703 – Foundations of Security
- Choose One:
 - INTS 4702 Emerging Issues in International Security
 - INTS 4238 Modern Political Violence

3. **Skills Courses** - three courses **(12 credits)**: (*take first 2 during first year*)

- INTS 4057 – Statistics
- INTS 4735 - Defense and Security Methods (*offered Fall quarter only most years*)
- 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 Korbel School Skills List. This list is updated annually and can be found on the Korbel Student Affairs Digication site. Students may also utilize graduate level skills courses in other DU departments/schools with pre-approval of their degree director.

4. **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. Korbel 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 Korbel 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 Korbel Student Affairs Digication site.

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 (SRP) (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.

Degree Director:

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<https://du.digication.com/korbelgradstudents/international-security>