

MA in Defense and Strategic Studies

The MA in Defense and Strategic Studies is an online degree program within the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs. Defense and Strategic Studies is an important area of study centered on understanding political and military strategy, including understanding topics such as the causes of conflict between and within states, military power and effectiveness, intelligence, diplomacy, and deterrence. These subjects are continually important for understanding international politics and security in an increasingly complex world.

The program is targeted towards US military officers and the civilian workforce in industries, government agencies, and think tanks related to international relations and national security. For military officers the degree is beneficial in order to be promoted to higher ranks, and will help them further understand international politics and strategy needed for their jobs. Military officers should be able to make command decisions and complete staff assignments with greater understanding of the broader context surrounding them because of their broadened intellectual horizon and increased understanding of international relations theory, conflict, and security learned through the program. Similarly, the intellectual base and knowledge gained in the program will enable civilian graduates to become qualified for and/or better perform job duties at positions in government agencies, think tanks, and industries related to international security.

Degree Requirements

Major Requirements		9
POL_SC 8450	International Conflict	3
POL_SC 8470	Understanding Civil War	3
POL_SC 8550	Strategic Studies	3
Electives (select seven)		21
POL_SC 7412	Strategy and Warfare	3
POL_SC 7413	Politics of Cyber Security	3
POL_SC 7415	Peacekeeping and Intervention	3
POL_SC 7500	Insurgency and Counterinsurgency	3
POL_SC 7510	Intelligence and National Security	3
POL_SC 7520	Deterrence and Nuclear Weapons	3
POL_SC 7540	American Foreign Policies	3
POL_SC 7560	Military and Strategic Thought	3
POL_SC 7650	Middle East Politics	3
POL_SC 7900	Topics in Strategic Studies	3
POL_SC 8400	International Relations Theory	3
POL_SC 8430	Economics and National Security	3
POL_SC 8560	Military Innovation in Peace and War	3
PUB_AF 8170	Public Policy Processes and Strategies	3
PUB_AF 8210	Public Service and Democracy	3
PUB_AF 8530	Strategic Management of Public Service Organizations: People, Information and Money	3

Admissions

Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis. Applicants must have a BA or equivalent from an accredited institution. Applicants should have a GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Those with a GPA under

3.0 will need very strong qualities in other areas (such as professional experience) to gain admission. GRE scores are optional. For international applicants, TOEFL scores (or other proof of English language proficiency) are required. If you are not an active MU non-degree-seeking or graduate student, you will need to apply through the Graduate School online portal (<https://gradschool.missouri.edu/admissions/apply/>). There is a non-refundable application fee.

Application Materials

1. Statement of purpose
2. Two letters of recommendation
3. Resume/CV
4. GRE scores (optional)
5. Transcripts of all previous college/university education
6. Proof of English language ability (required of applicants whose native language is not English)

For general questions about the program, contact:

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