

National Security (MNS)

This program is designed to teach the next generation of analysts and policymakers to think critically, communicate persuasively, and act effectively to address the most pressing national and international security threats. The program offers a multidisciplinary approach to studying the complexities of today's security environment, providing the necessary policy and theoretical tools for analysis and action. Students pursuing this degree select a concentration in Intelligence; Diplomacy and International Security; Regional Security; or Technology Advancing National Security. Students may also propose their own concentration, which is subject to approval.

Students complete a curriculum that consists of courses in domestic statecraft for national security, international systems and policy, the integration of grand strategy with military and intelligence strategies, and the development and use of economic strategies to advance national security. The curriculum also includes courses in written and oral communication skills related to national security and qualitative techniques of research design and analysis.

Admission

Admissions decisions are made by the Admissions Committee. The committee considers applicants' academic and employment records; three letters of recommendation from professors or employers; and a statement of purpose addressing the applicant's background and interests in public service and national security. A résumé and transcripts for all college coursework are also required. Preference will be given to those candidates with one to three years of experience.

There are no prescribed course prerequisites. Many students find the following courses to be useful: one semester each of principles of economics and principles of statistics, at least one semester of undergraduate international relations or world history, and one semester of calculus.

Additional information on degree requirements and the [application process](#) is available on the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs website.

Total Hours Required: 42

Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Degree		
Program curriculum hours		18
Hours chosen from: Graduate-level regional studies		6
Hours chosen from: Area of Concentration		12
NSP 396K	Internship in National Security	3
NSP 398R	Master's Report	3
All students in this program must also follow these requirements and policies:		
Graduate Public Affairs Requirements		
Graduate University Requirements		
Total Hours		42

Additional Requirements and Policies

Students also take two graduate-level courses in contemporary history or political science related to a specific region. Students meet requirements for additional credit hours by participating in a Policy Research Project,

performing an internship, writing a Master's Report, taking two graduate-level free electives, or a combination of these options.

- For students with seven or more years of experience and/or active duty service, the typical program would include a Policy Research Project or graduate-level elective in place of the internship.
- Students must fulfill all academic requirements within six years of their entrance into the program. Most students are expected to complete the program in two years of full-time study.