

Advanced International Affairs, Cert. (GR)

Program Description

The mission of the Certificate in Advanced International Affairs (CAIA) program at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University is to prepare students and professionals to gain critical international affairs expertise in the understanding, analysis, and communication of international policy, and also to prepare students for internationally related careers. The graduate certificate program requires the completion of four graduate courses selected from a list of relevant courses in international affairs. Courses may be taken online, residential, or via a mixture of the two formats.

The certificate coursework enables qualified graduate students to enhance their transcripts and resumes with demonstrated internationally focused course work. The courses and resulting credential assist our graduates in competing for careers requiring international expertise; in complementing their degrees in other areas, such as business, engineering, or agriculture; or, in earning credits that can be applied toward a full-time master's program in international affairs or other graduate-level degrees.

Gaining a certificate in Advanced International Affairs from the Bush School assists in students' career advancement. It is a key additional element of their resume that should help in applications to the government's diplomatic, military or intelligence agencies such as State, DOD, DIA, CIA, NGA or FBI. It would also be of interest to the many private companies located on the Beltway and throughout the country that have government related contracts.

Furthermore, in alignment with the Bush School mission to create principled leaders in public service and international affairs, the CAIA program influences its graduates to pursue international focused careers in public service at the local, state, federal, or global level with specific emphasis on diplomacy, defense policy and intelligence.

Outcome 1 – Analytical Skill in International Affairs Policy Analysis

The student will critically analyze material by applying salient and reliable information pertinent to the international policy under investigation and will synthesize a large amount of material from numerous sources.

Measure 1.1 – Analytical Skill: Writing Sample

Student essays and writing projects will be sampled from the courses: INTA 651 National Security Policy and INTA 605 American Foreign Policy Since World War II. Documents will be evaluated by faculty using the rubric under *Supporting Documentation*. A detailed description of the process is also attached.

Target 1.1

85% will score as developing or proficient in the analytical skill criteria of the attached rubric. The target is based on the Certificate in Advanced International Affairs assessment trend data that evaluated the long-term performance of the CAIA students on the assessment measures that have been in place since 2014.

Finding 1.1: Partially Met

Overall, this target was partially met with INTA 605 not meeting objectives, and INTA 651 meeting objectives.

Target Not Met in INTA 605, American Foreign Policy, in both the online and on campus course, students did not achieve the 85% target of those scoring developing or proficient in "critically analyze material by applying salient and reliable information pertinent to the international policy under investigation and will synthesize a large amount of material from numerous sources."

Target Met in INTA 651, National Security Policy, in the online course (there were no certificate students in the on campus INTA 651 in 2019-2020), students successfully achieved the 85% target of those scoring developing or proficient in "critically analyzing material by applying salient and reliable information pertinent to the international policy under investigation and will synthesize a large amount of material from numerous sources."

Complete data, findings, and details are on the attached 19_20_FinalAnalysis_CAIA Assessment.xls document via several worksheets.

Highlights following:

INTA 605 American Foreign Policy (Online and On Campus) Analytical Skill

Online. Not met. INTA 605, American Foreign Policy Online: Out of 37 students, 10 (27%) of students achieved proficient status, 20 (54%) of students achieved developing status, 6 (16%) achieved novice, and 1 (3%) had no evidence of meeting the analytical skill student learning outcome. In total, 81% reached developing or proficient, thus falling short of the 85% target. *However, this is an improvement from last academic year where only 78% reached developing or proficient.*

ON CAMPUS. Not met. INTA 605, American Foreign Policy On Campus: Out of 6 students, 1 (17%) student achieved proficient status, 3 (50%) developing, and 3 (33%) novice. In total, 67% reached developing or proficient, thus falling short of the 85% target. The target of 85% meeting proficient or developing status was not met. This may be due to the historical focus of the residential course, the different instructor for the residential course, and the slight variation in end-of-term paper assignments.

INTA 651 National Security Policy (Online - No Certificate Students in On Campus INTA 651) Analytical Skill

Online Target Met. Eighty-five percent (85%) of students achieved proficient or developing status. Out of the 28 students' papers assessed, 11 (39%) were considered proficient, 13 (46%) developing, and 4 (14%) novice. Target was met! This is a target that increased 35% from last year!

Use of Results 1.1

The target of Analytical skill and "to critically analyze material by applying salient and reliable information pertinent to the international policy under investigation and will synthesize a large amount of material from numerous sources" was **completely met** in the online course of INTA 651 National Security Policy, which only had online students this 19-20 year. No on campus certificate students took INTA 651 on campus this year. However, the target of Analytical skill was **not** met in either of the online or on campus version of INTA 605 American Foreign Policy. Although the target in INTA 605 American Foreign Policy of 85% scoring proficient or developing, there was a 3% increase from last academic year, so progress is in the correct direction. Additionally, INTA 605 online and on campus differs slightly in its instructors, syllabus, and approach which may cause some challenges in the assessment process. Thus, the student learning outcome, assessment, and rubric for INTA 605 need to be reviewed and discussed by the international affairs faculty for potentially increased consistency.

Also, the graduate certificate director and the faculty will review the INTA 605 syllabi (online and on ground) and work with the developer of the course to update and add some lessons meant to strengthen those student learning outcomes of content, analytical skill, and communication of International Affairs Knowledge in writing in the INTA 605 American Foreign Policy Since World War II course. This will result in an update for INTA 605 American Foreign Policy Since World War II.

We believe these actions of reviewing the assessment procedures and the online/on campus course of INTA 605 American Foreign Policy will result in improved assessment measures and learning for the students. INTA 605 American Foreign Policy was the only course that did not meet the student learning outcomes, thus, it has been identified as the most important area for focus on course improvement in order to help student achieve student learning outcomes.

This will be completed by Spring 2022 and will entail several meetings with faculty and course developers. Responsible Party: Professor Sievert and the international affairs and graduate certificate Faculty.

Outcome 2 – Content: Application of INTA Concepts and Theories in Policy

The student will describe and apply international affairs concepts and theories to current complex policy problems and international relations challenges on a global scale in the specific area of American foreign policy and national security policy.

Measure 2.1 – Content: Apply INTA Concepts and Theories – Writing Samples

Student essays and writing projects will be sampled from the courses that the majority of students register and complete: INTA 651 National Security Policy and INTA 605 American Foreign Policy Since World War II. Documents will be evaluated by faculty using the rubric under *Supporting Documentation*. A detailed description of the process is also attached.

Target 2.1

85% will score as developing or proficient in the content criteria of the attached rubric. The target is based on the Certificate in Advanced International Affairs assessment trend data that evaluated the long-term performance of the CAIA students on the assessment measures that have been in place since 2014.

Finding 2.1: Partially Met

Overall, this target was partially met with INTA 605 not meeting objectives, and INTA 651 meeting objectives.

Target Not Met in INTA 605, American Foreign Policy. In both the online and on campus course, students did not achieve the 85% target of those scoring developing or proficient in "Content. The student will describe and apply international affairs concepts and theories to current complex policy problems and international relations challenges on a global scale." In the online course, only 81% achieved proficient or developing, and in the on campus course, only 67% achieved proficient or developing.

Target Met in INTA 651, National Security Policy, in the online course (There were no certificate students in the on campus INTA 651 in 2019-2020), students successfully achieved the 85% target of those scoring developing or proficient in "Content. The student will describe and apply international affairs concepts and theories to current complex policy problems and international relations challenges on a global scale."

Complete data, findings, and details are on the attached 19_20_FinalAnalysis_CAIA Assessment.xls document via several worksheets.

Highlights following:

INTA 605 American Foreign Policy (Online and On Campus) Content.

ONLINE Format. Not met for INTA 605, American Foreign Policy Online: Out of the 37 students' papers assessed, 23 were considered proficient (62%), 7 developing (19%), and 7 novice (19%). In total, 81% achieved proficient or developing status. Although the target of 85% meeting proficient or developing status was not met, there was a 3% increase in papers evaluated developing or proficient from the last academic year. Not met.

ON CAMPUS Format. Not met for INTA 605, American Foreign Policy On Campus: Out of the 6 students' papers assessed, 3 were considered proficient (50%), 1 developing (17%), and 2 novice (33%). In total, 67% achieved proficient or developing status. This is the first time we have been able to procure a residential sample of papers. The target of 85% meeting proficient or developing status was not met. This may be due to the historical focus of the residential course and the different in end-of-term paper assignments.

INTA 651 National Security Policy (Online - No Certificate Students in On Campus INTA 651) Content

Target Met. INTA 651 National Security Policy - Out of the 28 students' papers assessed, 13 (46%) were considered proficient, 11 (39%) developing, and 4 (14%) novice. In total, 85% achieved developing or proficient status thus reaching the 85% target.

Use of Results Action 2.1

The target of Content and “the student will describe and apply international affairs concepts and theories to current complex policy problems and international relations challenges on a global scale in the specific area of American foreign policy and national security policy” was completely met in the online course of INTA 651 National Security Policy. INTA 651 only had online students this 19-20 year, and no on campus certificate students took INTA 651 on campus this 19-20 academic year.

However, the Content target and student learning outcome was not met in either of the online or on campus version of INTA 605 American Foreign Policy. Although the target in INTA 605 American Foreign Policy of 85% scoring proficient or developing was not met in the online format (81% was achieved) and the on campus format (67% was achieved), there was a 3% increase in meeting the target online from last academic year when only 78% achieved the target. Additionally, the INTA 605 online and on campus course differs slightly in its instructors, syllabus, and approach which may cause some challenges in the assessment process. Thus, the student learning outcome, assessment, and rubric for INTA 605 need to be reviewed and discussed by the international affairs faculty for potentially increased consistency.

As part of this action plan to improve the Content Student Learning Outcome, the graduate certificate director and the faculty will review the INTA 605 syllabi (online and on ground) and work with the developer of the course to update and add some lessons meant to strengthen those student learning outcomes of content, analytical skill, and communication of International Affairs Knowledge in writing in the INTA 605 American Foreign Policy Since World War II course. This will result in an update for the course of *INTA 605 American Foreign Policy Since World War II*.

We believe these actions of reviewing the assessment procedures and also the content of the online/on campus course of INTA 605 American Foreign Policy will result in greatly improved student learning. INTA 605 American Foreign Policy was the only course that did not meet the student learning outcomes, thus, it has been identified as the most important area of focus for graduate course improvement in order to help student achieve student learning outcomes in the Graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs Program.

This will be completed by Spring 2022 and will entail several meetings with faculty and course developers. Responsible Party: Professor Sievert and the international affairs and graduate certificate Faculty.

Outcome 3 – Communicate Clearly INTA Concepts in Writing

The student will present, support, and argue for solutions to foreign and national security policy challenges that communicates clearly in well-developed arguments supported by accurate APSA citations.

Measure 3.1 – Written Communication of INTA in Writing Sample

Student essays and writing projects will be sampled from the courses that the majority of students register and complete: INTA 651 National Security Policy and INTA 605 American Foreign Policy Since World War II. Documents will be evaluated by faculty using the rubric under *Supporting Documentation*. A detailed description of the process is also attached.

Target 3.1

85% will score as developing or proficient in the content criteria of the attached rubric. The target is based on the Certificate in Advanced International Affairs assessment trend data that evaluated the long-term performance of the CAIA students on the assessment measures that have been in place since 2014.

Finding 3.1: Partially Met

Overall, this target was partially met with INTA 605 not meeting objectives, and INTA 651 meeting objectives.

Target Not Met in INTA 605, American Foreign Policy. In both the online and on campus course, students did not achieve the 85% target of those scoring developing or proficient in "Communicate Clearly International Affairs Concepts in Writing. The student will present, support, and argue for solutions to foreign and national security policy challenges that communicates clearly in well-developed arguments supported by accurate APSA citations." In the online course, only 73% achieved proficient or developing, and in the on campus course, only 33% achieved proficient or developing.

Target Met in INTA 651, National Security Policy, in the online course (There were no certificate students in the on campus INTA 651 in 2019-2020), students successfully achieved the 85% target of those scoring developing or proficient in "Communicate Clearly International Affairs Concepts in Writing. The student will present, support, and argue for solutions to foreign and national security policy challenges that communicates clearly in well-developed arguments supported by accurate APSA citations." In total, 86% of the INTA 651 National Security Policy students achieved a developing or proficiency status in communicating clearly international affairs concepts in writing.

Complete data, findings, and details are on the attached 19_20_FinalAnalysis_CAIA Assessment.xls document via several worksheets.

Highlights following:

INTA 605 American Foreign Policy (Online and On Campus) Content.

Online. Not met. INTA 605, American Foreign Policy Online: Out of 37 students, 19 (51%) of students achieved proficient status, 8 (22%) of students achieved developing status, 9 (24%) achieved novice, and 1 (3%) had no evidence of meeting the communication skill student learning outcome. In total, 73% reached developing or proficient, thus falling short of the 85% target.

ON CAMPUS. Not met for INTA 605, American Foreign Policy On Campus: Out of the 6 students' papers assessed, 3 were considered proficient (50%), 1 developing (17%), and 2 novice (33%). In total, 67% achieved proficient or developing status. This is the first time we

have been able to procure a residential sample of papers. The target of 85% meeting proficient or developing status was not met. This may be due to the historical focus of the residential course and the different in end-of-term paper assignments.

INTA 651 National Security Policy (Online - No Certificate Students in On Campus INTA 651) Communicate Clearly

Target Met. Eighty-six percent (86%) of students achieved proficient or developing status. Out of the 28 students' papers assessed, 12 (51%) were considered proficient, 10 (36%) developing, and 4 (14%) novice.

Use of Results 3.1

The target of "Communicate Clearly International Affairs Concepts in Writing. The student will present, support, and argue for solutions to foreign and national security policy challenges that communicates clearly in well-developed arguments supported by accurate APSA citations was completely met in the online course of INTA 651 National Security Policy. INTA 651 only had online students this 19-20 year, and no on campus certificate students took INTA 651 on campus this 19-20 academic year.

However, the Communication target and student learning outcome was not met in either of the online or on campus version of INTA 605 American Foreign Policy. The target in INTA 605 American Foreign Policy of 85% scoring proficient or developing was not met in the online format (73% was achieved) and the on campus format (33% was achieved). Additionally, the INTA 605 online and on campus course differs slightly in its instructors, syllabus, and approach which may cause some challenges in the assessment process. Thus, the student learning outcome, assessment, and rubric for INTA 605 need to be reviewed and discussed by the international affairs faculty for potentially increased consistency.

As part of this action plan to improve the Communication Student Learning Outcome, the graduate certificate director and the faculty will review the INTA 605 syllabi (online and on ground) and work with the developer of the course to update and add some lessons meant to strengthen those student learning outcomes of content, analytical skill, and communication of International Affairs Knowledge in writing in the INTA 605 American Foreign Policy Since World War II course. This will result in an update for the course of *INTA 605 American Foreign Policy Since World War II*.

We believe these actions of reviewing the assessment procedures and also the content of the online/on campus course of INTA 605 American Foreign Policy will result in greatly improved student learning. INTA 605 American Foreign Policy was the only course that did not meet the student learning outcomes, thus, it has been identified as the most important area of focus for graduate course improvement in order to help student achieve student learning outcomes in the Graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs Program.

This will be completed by Spring 2022 and will entail several meetings with faculty and course developers. Responsible Party: Professor Sievert and the international affairs and graduate certificate Faculty.

Status Update of a Previous Action

During the 18-19 academic year, student papers were reviewed with a rubric by faculty and measured for evidence of content, analytical skill, and communication. Findings demonstrated that we needed to improve the following student learning outcomes that were partially met.

1. **Content in International Affairs:** The student will describe and apply international affairs concepts and theories to current complex policy problems and international relations challenges on a global scale in the specific area of American foreign policy and national security policy.
2. **Analytical Skill in International Affairs Policy Analysis:** The student will critically analyze material by applying salient and reliable information pertinent to the international policy under investigation and will synthesize a large amount of material from numerous sources.
3. **Communicate Clearly International Affairs Concepts in Writing:** The student will present, support, and argue for solutions to foreign and national security policy challenges that communicates clearly in well-developed arguments supported by accurate APSA citations.

Due to only partially meeting all the above student learning outcomes, the following changes were implemented.

1. **CONTENT:** A threaded discussion question scenario was implemented in the online course of INTA 605 American Foreign Policy will be designed specifically to strengthen international affairs theories and concepts applied to real-contextual situation

This is in process and will be completed in online courses for Fall 2021 implementation. Delayed due to the pandemic.

2. **ANALYSIS:** We worked with the faculty developers of INTA 605 and INTA 651 to create and incorporate a lesson to strengthen students' skills of analysis in INTA 605 and INTA 651. This will be completed and implemented by Fall 2020. By focusing on specific skills, the faculty assessors identify are needed, the lesson will provide support to improve our online students' analytic international affairs skills.

This is in process and will be completed in online courses for Fall 2021 implementation. Delayed due to the pandemic.

3. **COMMUNICATION:** We worked with the developers of INTA 605 American Foreign policy to incorporate more writing resources into the course

Completed by the deadline!

Supporting Documentation



Graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs Assessment Review

Dear Assessment Reviewer,

Thank you for your time in being a reviewer for the Graduate Certificate in International Affairs certificate at the Bush School of Government and Public Service. The purpose of this exercise is to help identify strengths and weakness in student outcomes. Data gleaned from this review will allow us to evaluate and identify improvements needed for the program.

This is a candid assessment. You will review the assignment based on three major objectives and identifying, based on the exam or paper, if the student achieved Proficiency, Developing, Novice or No Evidence of the student-learning outcome identified.

Included in this packet, you will find the following information in completing this review.

- 1- START HERE Instruction Letter
- 2- Assessment Rubric
- 3- Assessment Scoring Sheet (Excel Sheet)
- 4 - INTA 605 Student Paper Files
 - Assignment Prompt (Instructions)
 - Sum 18 > Final Papers
 - Fall 18 > Final Papers
 - Spr 19 > Final Papers
- 5- INTA 651 Student Samples File
 - Assignment Prompt (Instructions)
 - Sum 18 > Final Papers
 - Fall 18 > Final Papers
 - Spr 19 > Final Papers

To accomplish the review, complete the following tasks:

1. **Read each sample paper, case, or exam provided.** Please note, to allow for anonymity, students' names have been removed from the samples.
2. **Using the Assessment Rubric, evaluate the samples.**
3. **Score each sample using the following rating scale below.** Note that each objective for the sample will need a score. See the Assessment Scoring Sheet for an example.
4. **Insert your scores into the Assessment Scoring Sheet (Excel sheet).** No comments are required.
5. **Return the completed Assessment Scoring Sheet** to Lisa Brown at lisabrown@tamu.edu After all components are received, payment will be requested from the business office, per the agreed amount.

Scoring Key for Objective Criteria

3 – Proficient, 2 – Developing, 1 – Novice, 0 – No Evidence

2019 – 2020		[GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS – PROGRAM ASSESSMENT FORM]				
Criteria	Proficient 3	Developing 2	Novice 1	No Evidence 0	Notes	Score
Content Student Learning Outcome (SLO) - <i>Application of International Affairs</i>	Develops appropriate, relevant, and compelling content to convey in depth understanding of international affairs knowledge, the audience, and the purpose. Demonstrated grasp and application of key issues in international affairs.	Develops message with some degree of detail and demonstration of international affairs concepts but not necessarily include detail that targets audience and purpose.	Develops message with insufficient content and details, failing to target audience and purpose.	No evidence is provided that supports this criterion.	Sufficient and appropriate details convey the writer's ability to problem-solve within the context. Topics address how the student will acquire information, will evaluate the findings, how findings will be used to formulate response and prepare the message.	
Analytical Skill SLO - <i>Analytical Skill</i>	Demonstration of digesting large amount of material, extracting all relevant points, determining salient issues, and then analyzing the issue from various viewpoints.	Demonstration of some familiarity with material and brings out some relevant points and issues. A somewhat limited view of analysis.	Demonstration of lack of familiarity with material and lack of understanding of key issues. Analysis occurs from only one viewpoint and frame of reference.	No evidence is provided that supports this criterion.	Advanced analytical skill includes the ability to analyze large amounts of material and select key information, issues, and problems. Analysis should occur from various paradigms and frames of reference in order to aggregate and synthesize relevant information into paths and consequences for decision making.	
Communication of International Affairs Knowledge in Writing SLO - <i>Communication</i>	International affairs concepts, issues, and complexities are clearly and concisely communicated in a logical and consistent manner. Effective writing that communicates a thesis idea that is clear and well-developed. Paragraphs support the thesis via a well-constructed and logical argument that contains proper APSA citations.	Most international affairs concepts, issues, and complexities are clearly and concisely communicated. Reasonable thesis idea presented with some strong support; however, some supporting paragraphs and arguments are unclear. Most APSA citations are correct, though some refinements are needed.	International affairs concepts, issues, and complexities are not successfully addressed. Presents a thesis; however, the central point is not clear and/or well developed. Some support exists, but lacking in an effective argument with strong research support and citations.	No evidence is provided that supports this criterion.	International affairs knowledge communicated that includes key concepts, issues, and complexities. Knowledge is communicated clearly in a professional manner. Thesis. Topic sentences, coherence, cohesion, transitions. APSA citations. Clear and concise writing style.	

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) for the Graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Content application of international affairs concepts – Students will describe and apply international affairs concepts and theories to current complex policy problems and international relations challenges on a global scale in specific area of American foreign policy and national security policy. 2. Analytical skill – Students will critically analyze material by applying salient and reliable information pertinent to the international policy under investigation and will synthesize a large amount of material from numerous sources. 3. Communication – Students will present, support, and argue for solutions to foreign and national security policy challenges that communicates clearly in well-developed arguments supported by accurate APSA citations.