

MAGS welcome guide

On behalf of Arizona State University, the School of Politics and Global Studies, and the Center on the Future of War, we welcome you to the M.A. in global security program (MAGS). We hope that you find your studies with us to be intellectually stimulating as well as personally and professionally valuable. We are here to assist you as you move through the program and look forward to working together to ensure your individual and collective success.

Our unique program trains students to critically engage issues of global conflict and security in a comprehensive manner. It is designed to aid professional advancement in military, government, humanitarian assistance and private sector careers. The program is based on the idea that understanding current and future security challenges requires a holistic, multifaceted approach linking key ideas and theories from a variety of disciplines that are illustrated and explained through practical examples and case studies.

We ask that you review the attached information which provides support and guidance as you navigate your first semester. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have questions about the M.A. in global security program.

We wish you all the very best and a wonderful start to the semester.

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Program information for new students

I'm a newly admitted student, what should I do now?

As you begin the program, we ask that you first complete three critical tasks:

- 1.) One of your first tasks as an admitted student is to read the program's handbook. This handbook can be found on the program's website: <https://spgs.clas.asu.edu/graduate-degrees/gsc-resources>.* The handbook will review key policies and guide you through the expectations and requirements of the program. You are expected to familiarize yourself with and abide by the policies set forth in the handbook. The handbook is updated regularly and you will find archived handbooks on the website as well.

*This website is designed to assist current students, and you will also find additional resources that will support you in the program.

- 2.) Secondly, you should register for your course(s) in the semester you were admitted into. Each semester will have deadlines in which registration must take place, and you should consult the ASU academic calendar for these dates each semester. <https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar>. *We ask that admitted students complete registration within two weeks of admission.* This allows you to prepare for the upcoming semester and complete any administrative tasks as well as allows faculty and staff to plan course materials. You can complete your course registration through your MyASU page in the "My Classes" section and follow the registration link. GSC 501 is the required course for all new students. Additional courses are at your discretion. Please see below for more information on course registration and course load.
- 3.) Consult your MyASU page regularly for "Priority Tasks." These are items that require your attention. Please be sure your ASU email and/or forwarding email address is set up correctly. University faculty and staff will use your ASU email address for communications and it is your responsibility to make sure you can receive information in this way. You can see your contact information on the "Profile" tab of your MyASU page.

Who is my academic advisor?

The academic advisor for this program is Leah Legg. Leah can be reached via email or phone at Leah.Legg@asu.edu or 480-965-7634. Please feel free to contact Leah with any questions you may have, benefit paperwork requests, registration issues, or academic advising. Please remember to

include your ASU ID number in communications with your advisor. In-person meetings on the ASU Tempe campus are also available upon request.

How is the semester structured?

You will notice there are three terms/semesters each year: Spring, Summer and Fall.

Each term is split into two "Sessions."

"A" session refers to the first half of the semester.	"B" session refers to the second half of the semester.
"C" session refers to the full semester and is primarily used for in-person courses.	

Please see the [ASU academic calendar](#) for the start and end dates for each semester.

You should pay particular attention to the drop and add deadlines for courses; they typically occur very early into the session. Dropping a class after the deadline may affect tuition.

What courses should I register for?

There are two required courses in the MA in global security program. GSC 501 and GSC 550.

GSC 501: *War, Conflict and Security* is a required course for all students and should be taken the first semester of the program. This course will serve as a platform for future course in the program.

GSC 550: *Capstone* is the final course in the degree, and should be taken in the last semester of the program. More information will be provided about the Capstone course as you progress through the program.

All other courses are considered "electives." The prefix or "subject" for this degree is "GSC." You can find all of the courses that are being offered for current, future, and past semesters in the ASU Class Search <https://webapp4.asu.edu/catalog/> or through your MyASU page, "My Classes" section. Please see the program handbook for more information on the courses offered as part of the degree.

The program faculty directors recommend no more than two courses per session in both "A" and "B" sessions. 9 graduate credits in a semester (taken between A and B sessions) is considered full time. The following semester's course offering is released approximately halfway through the previous semester. For example, spring courses are generally released in September. Fall courses are generally released in February. You will also see a notice of when you can register for the upcoming semester on your MyASU page.

Please note an important university policy for graduate students is **continuous enrollment**. Graduate students must be enrolled in at least one graduate credit each fall and spring semester. Non-enrollment during a fall or spring semester will result in being discontinued from the program. Enrollment can take place in either A or B session, or both. Summer enrollment is not required for continuous enrollment purposes.

How much work is involved in each class?

Students should expect between 75-150 pages of reading per week, discussion boards, mini exams, and several papers over the 7.5 weeks.

The summer A and B sessions are 6 weeks long. The same amount of course material is offered in summer courses as in fall and spring semesters.

What are the academic expectations of the program?

Student progress will be assessed annually (and at times, semi-annually) at the end of each semester. The standard for satisfactory progress is:

- Completion of all course requirements with an overall, graduate, and IPOS GPA of at least a 3.0
- No more than 2 incompletes in a one year time period
- Steady progress to complete the degree within six years from semester of admission

Any student who receives a B- or lower in any course should contact the program directors to discuss academic progress and a plan for improvement.

Again, we welcome you to the MA in global security program and look forward to working with you. Please let any of the program faculty or staff know if you have questions or feedback about your experience.