

Interdisciplinary Major Proposal

**International Political Economy &
Applied Mathematics**

Jeremy Williams

Class of 2014

Rationale

I aim to be a civil servant, and the proposed interdisciplinary major prepares me to be an excellent one. Studying International Political Economy & Applied Mathematics prepares me to effectively deal with public policy, whether as a diplomat, actuary, or college professor.

Inspired by the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) degree, this proposed degree develops analytical ability with breadth and rigor. Different versions of the PPE degree have prepared civil servants with rigorous breadth since 1920, and I envision this proposal to be its twenty-first century counterpart. Whereas the PPE degree of decades past develops a base of knowledge and ability from which to draw incisive insights, the International Political Economy & Applied Mathematics builds on top of that base. It develops the ability to apply quantitative methods to the task of analyzing, evaluating, and implementing public policy within the framework of International Relations and Economics combined.

As such, each aspect of this proposal advances the pursuit of my primary career path, and its alternatives. My ideal route to becoming a diplomat follows through a Master in Public Affairs, with a concentration in Economic Analysis and Public Policy. The entirety of the proposed curriculum contributes to a firm foundation upon which to develop the skill set and knowledge developed during such a graduate program in further preparation to join the diplomatic corps. Similarly, the economics and mathematics components prepare me for doctoral study and the subsequent pursuit of a professorship. And, in pursuing a career as an actuary, the economics and mathematics components are in fact necessary to satisfy the Validation by Educational Experience certification and complete actuarial examinations.

In addition to developing substantive knowledge in preparation for graduate study and actuarial accreditation, studying International Political Economy & Applied Mathematics also further develops effective communication skills. The proposed curriculum not only builds the ability to employ quantitative analysis, but also the ability to effectively interpret it. And veritably, the ability to effectively interpret information is a prerequisite for successful participation in each of my potential endeavors.

Requirements

The proposed program of study satisfies the requirements for an interdisciplinary major, including: a clear title; thematic coherence; greater than ten courses, with over four at or above the 300-level, over half of which will be taken in residence; and a capstone experience conducting research which applies combined aspects of each discipline. Although studying abroad is required of the IR major, financial constraints preclude my incorporating it into this proposal.

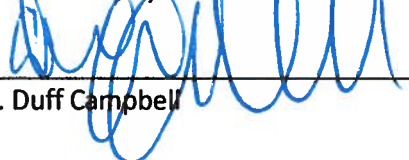
Supervisory Committee



Dr. Kiril Kolev



Dr. Tom Stanley



Dr. Duff Campbell

Courses

International Relations

POLI 251	Theories of International Relations
POLI 260	Political Economy
POLI 282	Foreign Policy Analysis
POLI 400	Research Methods

Bold – Completed

Italics – In progress

Economics

<i>BUSI 200</i>	<i>Fundamentals of Accounting and Business</i>
<i>ECON 300</i>	<i>Intermediate Microeconomics</i>
ECON 310	Intermediate Macroeconomics
ECON 400	Econometrics and Forecasting

Mathematics

MATH 130	Calculus I (transfer credit)
MATH 140	Calculus II
MATH 290	Introduction to Advanced Mathematics
MATH 270	Linear Algebra

Capstone

POLI 497	Senior Research Seminar
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Course Schedule

2012-2013

<u>Fall 2012</u>		<u>Spring 2013</u>	
<i>BUSI 200</i>	<i>Fundamentals of Accounting and Business</i>	POLI 260	Political Economy
<i>BUSI 250</i>	<i>Principles of Statistics</i>	POLI 282	Foreign Policy Analysis
<i>ECON 300</i>	<i>Intermediate Microeconomics</i>	POLI 400	Research Methods
<i>HIST 341</i>	<i>The Arab-Israeli Conflict</i>	POLI 440	Politics of Development

2013-2014

<u>Fall 2013</u>		<u>Spring 2014</u>	
ECON 400	Econometrics and Forecasting	MATH 290	Intro to Advanced Mathematics
MATH 140	Calculus II		
MATH 270	Linear Algebra		
POLI 497	Senior Research Seminar		

Bold – Proposed Course Requirement

Italics – In progress