MA in Global Security new student 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 MA in Global Security program and Cybersecurity concentration program (MAGS). We hope that you find your program intellectually stimulating as well as personally and professionally valuable. Please know that we are here to assist you as you move through the degree, and we look forward to working together to ensure your individual and collective success.

Our unique programs train students to critically engage global conflict and security in a comprehensive manner. They are also designed to aid professional advancement in military, government, and private sector careers. The programs are based on the idea that understanding current and future security challenges requires a holistic, multifaceted approach that links key ideas and theories from a variety of disciplines as illustrated and explained through practical examples and case studies.

We ask that you review the following information that will offer you support and guidance as you navigate your first semester. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have any questions about the MA in Global Security programs.

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

Sincerely,

Professor Jeff Kubiak, MAGS Co-Director

Professor Daniel Rothenberg, MAGS Co-Director

Leah Legg, MAGS Graduate Coordinator

This guide will address the following topics:

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

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

1.) One of your first tasks as an admitted student is to read the program's handbook. The handbook can be found on the program's website: https://spgs.asu.edu/degrees/graduate/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 annually and you will find archived handbooks on the website as well.

2.) Secondly, you should register for your course(s) in the semester you were admitted into. Each semester will have deadlines in which registration can take place; please consult the ASU Academic Calendar for these dates each semester. We recommend that admitted students complete registration within two weeks of admission to provide you the best options for course availability. This allows you to prepare for the upcoming semester and complete any administrative tasks. 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, introductory course for all new students**. Students in the Cybersecurity concentration additionally are required to complete a 4-course cyber sequence (GSC 560-563). Please see Page 4 for more information on course registration and requirements.

If you are required to enroll in a certain amount of credits per semester due to financial aid, funding, or any other situation, please follow the guidelines of your individual circumstances.

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 communication, 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, and also set up a forwarding email address if you prefer.

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 may also be available upon request.

How is the semester structured?

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

Each semester is split into two "sessions."   You will see the course sessions displayed in the ASU Class Search in the **"Dates"** column.

-"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 used for in-person courses and the summer Capstone course.

The ASU Academic Calendar provides dates for the start and end of each semester and session.

Please 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 and/or your transcript.

Fall and spring sessions are 7.5 weeks long. Summer A and B sessions are 6 weeks long. The same amount of course material is offered in summer sessions as in fall and spring sessions, but more compressed.

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 session.

Where can I find the books for my courses? If a book is required, it will be provided in the syllabus of the course. The link for the general course syllabus may be posted in the ASU Class Search. If the syllabus is not posted, you may email the instructor for more information. The official syllabus will be provided when the course is available, approximately 2 days prior to the start of the class. Most materials will be provided within the course itself through Canvas. The Canvas link is on the top of your MyASU page.

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 director and the academic advisor to discuss academic progress and a plan for improvement.

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 unless on an approved leave of absence. Enrollment can take place in either A or B session, or both. Summer enrollment is not required for continuous enrollment purposes unless a student is admitted for a summer term. Students admitted into a summer term must complete a GSC graduate summer course in the term of admission. Future summer enrollment will be optional.

Non-enrollment during a fall or spring semester will result in being discontinued from the program.

If you are required to enroll in a certain amount of credits per semester due to financial aid, funding, or any other situation, please follow the guidelines of your individual circumstances.

What courses should I register for, and what are the degree requirements?

There are two degrees within this program: The MA in Global Security and the MA in Global Security, Cybersecurity Concentration.

The MA in Global Security degree requires 30 credits/10 classes and the following courses:

      -GSC 501 (Introductory course)

      -GSC 550 (Final course)

The additional 8 courses can be comprised of any GSC 3-credit elective course. If you would like guidance on enrollment and registration, please feel free to contact your academic advisor (Leah Legg).

The MA in Global Security, Cybersecurity concentration degree requires 30 credits/10 classes, and the following courses:

      -GSC 501 (Introductory course)

      -Cybersecurity sequence: GSC 560, 561, 562 and 563

It is highly recommended to enroll in GSC 560 prior to enrolling in the other cybersecurity courses, if possible. 561, 562, 563 can be taken in any order after GSC 560 has been completed.

      -GSC 550 (Final course)

The additional 4 courses can be any GSC 3-credit elective course. If you would like guidance on enrollment and registration, please feel free to contact your academic advisor (Leah Legg).

If you are required to enroll in a certain amount of credits per semester due to financial aid, funding, or any other situation, please follow the guidelines of your individual circumstances.

Once you register for GSC 501, you will be invited to join a Canvas group for the program. That Canvas page will provide information, resources, announcements and more for the programs.

Again, we welcome you to the MA in Global Security programs and look forward to working with you.