

The Yale College global affairs major will drop its application requirement starting in the 2026-27 Academic Year.

Administered by the [Yale Jackson School of Global Affairs](#), the Global Affairs major provides students with multidisciplinary training to understand and address the challenges we face as engaged citizens of the world. By their nature, these challenges require fluency in approaches and frameworks from across the social sciences and humanities, as well as the ability to translate between scholarship and practice. Global Affairs is the fifth largest major at Yale, with approximately 250 students currently enrolled.

The decision to lift the application to the major reflects an evolution in the Global Affairs curriculum, which was updated for students entering the major in fall 2025 and after. Specifically, students who applied to and were accepted into the major before fall 2025 were required to complete 13 courses plus an L5 language course. For students accepted into or declaring the major in fall 2025 or after, the major requires 14 courses plus an L4 language requirement.

Rather than applying to the major in an application process, students must now successfully complete eight introductory requirements before they can [declare the Global Affairs major](#). These include two introductory economics courses (with specific course numbers), two introductory political science courses (again, choosing from specific courses), any 2 history courses, Applied Quantitative Analysis I, and one advanced course (for which students may choose from an intermediate economics course, game theory, or an approved qualitative methods course). Together, these courses provide students with a rigorous foundation across the core disciplines of political science, economics, and history, as well as training in quantitative analysis.

Global Affairs majors must also complete an advanced, integrated core course, three electives, and either a Capstone project or a senior thesis. For a complete and detailed list of the updated curriculum, including introductory requirements and the declaration process, please see [the Global Affairs major website](#).

Quote from James Levinsohn, Charles W. Goodyear Professor of Global Affairs and dean of the Jackson School of Global Affairs:

“Given today’s global challenges, we want to equip as many students as possible with a rigorous grounding in global affairs so they can engage thoughtfully with the world around them. The major will remain just as demanding as it was when admission was

by application, but it will now be open to any Yale College student prepared to meet that standard. We look forward to working with the incoming cohorts.”

Global Affairs Major requirements for students entering fall 2025 and after:

2 Economics courses

- Introduction to Microeconomics (ECON 1108, 1110 or 1115)
- Introduction to Macroeconomics (ECON 1111 or 1116)

2 Political Science courses (each from different subdisciplines)

- Intro to International Relations (PLSC 1113)
- Intro to Comparative Politics (PLSC 1413), **or**
- Political Theory (PLSC 1327, 1335, 1352 or DS)

2 History courses

- Any 2 HIST courses, Directed Studies fulfills one

2 Quantitative Analysis courses

- Applied Quantitative Analysis I (GLBL 2121)
- Applied Quantitative Analysis II (GLBL 2122)

2 Advanced courses

- “Challenges in Global Affairs” integrated core course (GLBL 3101)
- Game Theory, Intermediate micro-or macroeconomics, *or* an approved qualitative methods course (pick 1)

3 Electives (up to two (2) electives can be Senior Fellow courses)

Senior project: Capstone **or** thesis

FAQs

Yale College requires students to declare a major by the end of their fourth semester. I am a rising second-year, and I do not have time to complete the introductory courses by the end of my sophomore year. Can I still major in Global Affairs?

Yes. You may declare another major temporarily and then declare your Global Affairs major once you successfully complete all eight introductory requirements.

Can I take any of the major requirements as Credit/D?

No, students cannot count any course they've taken for credit toward their major requirements in Global Affairs.

How should I choose between doing a Capstone versus a senior thesis?

Capstone projects are group-based courses that are geared toward answering a specific policy concern brought to the course by an external partner. Students who would like the opportunity to conduct original research on a topic of their own choosing in Global Affairs can complete a senior thesis. Sometimes the choice may be informed by a student's post-graduate goals, and students may consult advisors at Jackson as they decide upon a senior project.

Does the removal of the application to the major apply only to the class of 2029 and on?

The class of 2029 is the first class that will not have an application as sophomores. However, any student regardless of class year may declare the major after completing the eight introductory requirements and demonstrating an ability to fulfill all major requirements prior to their expected graduation. Once students have completed the introductory requirements, they must complete the [major declaration form](#). After a student's form is reviewed, the registrar's office will process their formal entry into the major.

A more detailed list of FAQs is available on the [Jackson School's website](#).