STRATEGIC AND INTELLIGENCE STUDIES, MASTER OF ARTS

The Master of Arts in Strategic and Intelligence Studies (MASIS) is a one-year degree that will prepare future leaders and operators for sound decision-making at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels, by enabling them to task, parse, and prepare a wide range of data and raw intelligence.

Students will gain expertise in major strategy and intelligence topics such as terrorism, extremism, cybersecurity, disinformation, political warfare, covert operations, sanctions, special operations, and economic espionage. The program is designed to build the skills to work effectively in careers in the US Department of Defense, US Intelligence Community, and the related private and nonprofit sectors.

Degree Requirements

Campus: Washington, DC

Credits: 40

Duration: 11 Months, Full-Time

Course delivery: In-person

In order to graduate, students must fulfill all degree requirements and earn a cumulative GPA of 2.67 or above.

Sample Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Term</td>
<td>Bootcamp (2 credits)</td>
<td>1 week</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strategy I (4 credits)</td>
<td>15 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intelligence I (4 credits)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective (4 credits)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective (4 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January Intersession</td>
<td>Capstone Research</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seminar (2 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Strategy II (4 credits)</td>
<td>15 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intelligence II (4 credits)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective (4 credits)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective (4 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Capstone (4 credits)</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
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Pre-Term Boot Camp

The Pre-Term Boot Camp is designed to be an identity-forming group experience for the cohort to take place in and around Washington, DC during the last week in August and two Saturdays during the fall term. The boot camp will include an introduction to the program and topics in intelligence, strategy, covert action, military basics, open-source intelligence and policy making, exercises and simulations, an intelligence walk around Washington DC, and a staff ride to a nearby historical battlefield.

Sample Electives*

- Air Power and Strategy
- American Defense Policy
- Behavioral Sociology of Conflict
- Defense Analysis
- Digital Forensics and Incident Reporting (DFIR)
- Diplomatic Disasters
- Disinformation
- Economic Sanctions and Statecraft
- Genocide and Mass Violence
- Illicit Finance
- Insurgency and Irregular Warfare
- International Bargaining and Negotiation
- Military Adaptation under Fire
- Operations Analysis
- Psychology and Decision-making in Foreign Policy
- Technology and War
- The Nature and Character of Cyber Conflict

*subject to change

Capstone

Students will select one of two capstone options, either a thesis or a brief focused on strategic intelligence and national security. Each student will be assigned an advisor early in the year. The advisor will provide or facilitate supervision of the work leading toward the capstone requirement. The thesis is a thoroughly researched and well-sourced 8,000–10,000-word research paper. The thesis will be supervised and graded by the student’s advisor, as well as by a second SAIS faculty member with a specialization in that field of study. The brief is a thoroughly researched and documented 3,000–4,000-word issue paper presented in a 15-minute briefing, followed by a 30-minute Q&A session with at least two faculty members to probe the briefing’s depth and quality. The Research Seminar will prepare students for both the capstone thesis and brief.