The world is getting smaller. We see it in a 24/7 news cycle, where reports of global events reach us instantly. We feel it when a person can travel almost anywhere in the world in a day—and so can a virus. We live it daily, knowing that a small group of militants in a developing country can wound a world power and reshape global security.

The world is getting smaller, but the ways in which we interact with it continue to expand. Our bachelor of arts programs in international studies and public policy offer students the critical knowledge and skills to navigate and succeed in our increasingly interconnected world.

International Studies Major

The students attracted to our International Studies (INTS) program want to tackle real world problems. Whether they are motivated by a concern about conflict; poverty; environmental change; human health; drug or human trafficking; a particular country or region of the world; or world peace, students choose International Studies because they want to make a difference in the world.

Our program is designed to transform aspirations into a critical evaluation and understanding of global issues. We do this through combining the interdisciplinary strengths of our world-renowned faculty across diverse fields of inquiry including political science, economics, development studies, public health and security studies. We seek to provoke reflection on the ways in which the issues that students care about can be addressed and positive change can be realized. We also seek to give students practical foreign language, experiential, technological and service-learning skills that will help them make the most of a rapidly changing workplace, and prepare them to succeed beyond their university training.

Our INTS faculty come from intensive research backgrounds, translating their expertise in areas such as nuclear policy, gender and security, development and infectious disease, and political economy into meaningful lessons in the classroom. Many also bring relevant field experience from careers in non-profits, the U.S. military, the United Nations and global think tanks. In addition, we regularly host a visiting scholar through the Carnegie Centennial Visiting Scholar program.

“I entered DU as an undeclared major, and decided to take some introductory International Studies courses. I quickly realized that the unique aspect to Korbel and being an INTS major is that it combines multiple fields like science, history and politics to foster understanding, about current events and cultures. Throughout my entire time at DU, I felt supported by the faculty, encouraged to ask questions and to learn, and was never afraid to pursue different opportunities because of it.”

– Jenny Park, BA ’16, International Studies

Public Policy Major

Students choose to study Public Policy because they are passionate about developing solutions to the most challenging issues facing our nation such as government spending, entitlement reform, health care, national security, regulation, criminal justice, education reform and immigration. Navigating today’s politically polarized environment, identifying valid research in an oversaturated information age, and balancing competing priorities in a government budget all require specific, hard skills, which our students gain through an interdisciplinary curriculum.

Our Public Policy BA program is committed to the development of tomorrow’s leaders in the public, private and non-profit sectors through an innovative, analytical and quantitative core curriculum. The rigorous coursework includes policy analysis, applied economics, a history of public policy and an examination of current policy issues, and will prepare students to face tomorrow’s public policy challenges with the tools essential for sound judgment, articulation and innovative analysis skills. Students will be prepared to analyze and respond to the most challenging issues facing our nation.

Faculty members in this program are academics, policy experts, legal scholars and former elected officials. They represent a wide range of policy expertise, including health policy, regulatory policy, urban policy and demographics, constitutional law, economics and fiscal policy.

“I started as a Congressional Field Representative one week after graduating from the Public Policy program. In a matter of days, I was engaging constituents on a wide array of policy quandaries ranging from forestry regulation to cybersecurity in the financial industry. The transition was seamless, and I credit my assimilation to the Public Policy program’s emphasis on clarity of thought, analytical rigor and historical context.”

– Tanner Mastow, BA ’15, Public Policy and International Studies
Our students find careers that span the public, private and non-profit sectors. Here is a sampling of places where our recent graduates work:

- Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
- French Ministry of Education
- State Department
- Congressional Offices
- State Legislative Offices
- Teach for America
- AmeriCorps
- Peace Corps
- American Prairie Reserve
- Public Broadcasting Service
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- State Governors’ Offices
- U.S. House of Representatives
- U.S. Senate
- DaVita
- German Marshall Fund
- PROJECT C.U.R.E.
- Common Hope
- Global Brigades
- iDE (formerly International Development Enterprises)
- Various Law Firms
- Verbalizeit
- Institutional Global Investors LLC
- JMK Investments, Inc.
- Tesla Motors
- Frontier Airlines, Inc.
- Renewable Choice Energy
- Foreign Policy Magazine

Internships: While internships are not required, we strongly encourage them as part of the experiential learning process. Internships provide valuable hands-on experience and a good head start on building a professional network. Internships can be a valuable strategic tool in the development of a student’s career goals.

Minors: A minor in either international studies or public policy is an excellent option for students in any discipline who want to add an international or policy perspective to their studies. International Studies minors must take two required courses, as well as three other INTS courses of their choice. Public Policy minors take five required courses, as well as one elective of their choice.

CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION

Whether you are following a traditional four-year plan or hoping to move through your undergraduate degree at an accelerated pace, we offer several options for qualified students to earn a Master of Arts or Master of Public Policy at the Josef Korbel School. Speak to an advisor for more information.

LEARN MORE: du.edu/korbel/programs/bachelors or 303.871.6451