International Security Portfolio

**Purpose:** A portfolio creation is designed to ensure that a student is adequately prepared for professional level positions and tasks in the security field. It provides a means to evaluate the level of graduate training you have received while in our program by asking that you compile documents reflecting a variety of academic work products and internship experience that demonstrate substantive knowledge and skills. The collection of these materials is evaluated by members of the faculty.

**Rationale:** Beyond course grades, our overall evidence for evaluating the performance of a graduating M.A. candidate is minimal. We require neither a comprehensive exam nor a thesis (or substantial research paper) for students seeking a degree, although other APSIA schools often demand one or the other. No culmination appraisal mechanism exists outside informal assessments.

**Procedure:** All students seeking the M.A. in International Security who enrolled in Fall 2009 or thereafter, are required to register for INTS 4791 for 1 credit hour during their graduate coursework. This class is graded on a pass/fail basis. A “Pass” is necessary for graduation, and is determined by the contents and quality of the materials submitted in the Portfolio. You may register for the course during any quarter.

At the time you apply for graduation, you will be required to submit a folder to the International Security Degree Director containing hard copies of the following examples of your work. The portfolio is evaluated by the Degree Director plus at least one other faculty member in the security program. Some of these assignments, you will discover, are already incorporated into your coursework. We will have a brief meeting with you and provide an overall assessment of your preparation for security work after all documents have been submitted and deemed satisfactory. Following the meeting, a “P” grade will be recorded for the Portfolio course, INTS 4791.

**Deadlines:** For a student applying for June Commencement (end of Spring quarter), the deadline, for submitting the Portfolio will be January 15. For a student applying for a Summer graduation, the deadline is April 15; for Fall graduation, the deadline is July 15; and the deadline for Winter graduation is September 15. On that date, the portfolio materials must be submitted to the International Security Degree Director for evaluation. Some of the required documents may be missing and that should be indicated along with a statement of how and when you plan to complete them. You can expect a response in 30 days, indicating what outstanding assignments remain, and an assessment of the quality of the submitted portfolio materials. For each item, describe on a separate page when the assignment was completed and in what context. Include all relevant materials and compile them in this order:

**Portfolio Contents:**
1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Current Transcript
3. Policy Memo or Presidential Daily Briefing (PDB)
4. Power Point Presentation set of slides
5. Role-Play Simulation or Table Top Exercise Participation
6. Research Proposal
7. Report of Internship work
8. Book Reviews of 3 Classics in International Security
9. Original Research Paper or Investigative/Analysis Experience