

# GLOBAL & COMPARATIVE STUDIES

As a Global and Comparative Studies major at BSC, you'll understand and engage the contemporary world as a global system, including nation-states and transnational organizations. You will analyze the historical emergence of the global system, identify trends, and make projections, as well as digging into complex global problems such as socioeconomic and political development, environmental sustainability, and international security.

The major is designed to prepare students to pursue graduate degrees or directly enter a range of fields, including foreign service/diplomacy, international development, international business, higher education, issue advocacy, humanitarian assistance, journalism, media, and communications. Many recent graduates have served in the Peace Corps or are working at the United Nations or in various international non-governmental organizations.

The organizing themes of the major are:

- social and economic change;
- power dynamics, and;
- the interactions within and between the elements of a global society.

For this interdisciplinary major, you will take courses in political science, economics, sociology, and BSC's Urban Environmental Studies program. Besides the coursework, our strong connections to our alumni enable us to help students explore internships, study abroad, foreign and domestic travel opportunities so you'll get hands-on opportunities that will help you succeed.

## TOP TEN COLLEGES THAT LEAD TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

U.S. News & World Report included Birmingham-Southern College in its list of "10 Colleges that Often Lead to Graduate School" – highlighting ranked schools with the best records of graduate and professional school acceptance – noting that 42% of BSC graduates pursue continuing education within six months of graduation.

# BSC

Birmingham-Southern College

## Find a World of Opportunities

What does hiking through Patagonia, swimming with dolphins, teaching in Harlem, or sailing a tall ship have to do with college? At BSC, everything! Birmingham-Southern offers a unique mini-term between the fall and spring academic terms. Known as **Exploration Term**, or E-Term for short, these four weeks give students the opportunities to engage in hands-on learning both on and off campus.

E-Term is designed to enhance BSC's liberal arts education through practical experience and in-depth personal knowledge. Students must complete at least two Exploration Term projects during their time at BSC. Choose from on- and off-campus projects, independent study or research, group and individual study-travel, service-learning, and internships. You might attend the Sundance Film Festival with a film studies professor; see great works of art in New York and Paris; conduct an experiment with a faculty member; volunteer in Africa, San Francisco, or right here in Birmingham; read popular novels or study the origins of Southern cooking; explore the tropical rainforest or Galapagos Islands; produce a play in just three weeks; or take on an internship in your chosen field.



Learn more at [bsc.edu/academics/polysci-econ-soc/gcs.html](https://bsc.edu/academics/polysci-econ-soc/gcs.html)

# Four-year Plan for Global & Comparative Studies

## YEAR 1

Fall	Exploration Term	Spring
GCS 100: Introduction to Global and Comparative Studies ES Seminar EH 102/108 CI/GP/Foreign Language	Required	EC 201: Principles of Macroeconomics SM Course with Lab Self-Directed Elective IA

## YEAR 2

Fall	Exploration Term	Spring
SBS 204 (QA): Survey Data Analysis and Statistics GCS Elective CI/GP/Foreign Language Any Elective	2nd Required (option)	SBS 304: Research Methodology GCS Elective (WR) Self-Directed Elective CE/SM

## YEAR 3

Fall	Exploration Term	Spring
GCS Elective GCS Elective CI/GP/Foreign Language Any Elective	2nd Required (option)	GCS Elective GCS Elective CE/SM Any Elective

## YEAR 4

Fall	Exploration Term	Spring
GCS 470: Seminar for Majors GCS Elective Any Elective Any Elective	2nd Required (option)	GCS 472: Senior Research Project in Global and Comparative Studies GCS Elective Any Elective Any Elective

\* Sample four-year plan

\*CE=Creative Expression; CI=Community Interests; ES=Explorations in Scholarship First-Year Seminar; GP=Global Perspectives; IA=Interpretation or Analysis; QA=Quantitative Analysis; SM=Scientific Methodologies; WR=Writing Reinforcement

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The GCS major was specifically designed to prepare students to pursue graduate degrees at the best universities or to work in a variety of fields such as the foreign service/diplomacy, international development, international business, higher education, issue advocacy, disaster management, humanitarian assistance, journalism, media, and communications. Many recent graduates have served in the Peace Corps or are working at the United Nations or in various international non-governmental organizations.

Potential graduate school or career paths include:

- Graduate schools such as: Law, MBA, MPA, International Affairs, Medical, Global Health, and Urban Planning
- Non-Profits, NGOs & Peace Corps
- Conflict Resolution & Mediation
- U.S. State Department/Foreign Service/Diplomatic Service/International Relations/Government (local, national & international)
- International/ National Security & Services: Military, NSA, CIA, FBI, Private Security Contractors, Risk Assessment Firms
- International Business/Global Trade/Logistics Management/Banking
- Community/Economics/Global Economic Development
- Art/Society/Education: Teaching English Abroad/Translation
- Global Public Health & Health Education
- United Nations & World Bank
- Sustainability/Urban Planning
- Disaster Management/ Humanitarian Assistance
- Tourist Industry