

M.S. in Security and Intelligence Studies

Embry-Riddle's online Master of Science in Security and Intelligence Studies readies students for professional service in intelligence, aviation, military, homeland defense, homeland security, and corporate security communities, as well as for analyst roles in the public sectors, think tanks, and research institutions. The program bridges the gap between theory and operational reality. Students gain practical knowledge in security and intelligence disciplines, mastering strategic concepts and the crucial integration of science and technology, including emerging tools like AI and simulation, into the security realm.

The curriculum covers the full spectrum of modern conflict, including the principles of producing and presenting intelligence products, the importance of cultural understanding in key global regions, and the evolving roles of state and non-state actors. Whether analyzing international conflict or policy cooperation, students are prepared to navigate complex security landscapes.

Students develop advanced research skills, analytical methods, and the ability to clearly communicate findings, enhancing career prospects for both entry-level professionals and mid-level leaders in cyber intelligence and corporate security. Coursework also incorporates professional certifications and future-focused skills such as artificial intelligence (AI), open-source intelligence (OSINT), simulation, and strategic tradecraft. Students select a concentration to align their studies with their goals and interests, choosing between the Intelligence concentration or the Security concentration.

Earning this degree through provides a flexible, career-focused education designed for working professionals from around the world, including the U.S. and its allies' military. With faculty who are leaders in their fields and also bring real-world experience in defense, intelligence, and cybersecurity, students gain practical, immediately applicable skills.

Program-Level Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Apply social science research methods.
- Conduct defensible analysis of security and intelligence problems.
- Work effectively in interdisciplinary teams to identify, research, and address pressing issues in security and intelligence.
- Identify the requirements and strategies for managing and protecting assets in the public and private sectors.
- Identify the requirements and strategies for providing public and private sectors with decision support and decision advantage.

Worldwide Program Requirements

Core Requirements	12
Specialization	12
Electives	6
Total Credits	30

Program Details

The Master of Science in Security and Intelligence Studies requires successful completion of a minimum of 30 credit hours. Students enrolled in the Worldwide Graduate Online program may complete the degree in six terms, or approximately two years, assuming full-time enrollment and continuous progress. Students pursuing this graduate degree must earn a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.00 for all work completed at the University. The courses required to earn this degree are listed below.

Students should be aware that many courses have prerequisites and/or corequisites. Students are responsible for ensuring that all prerequisite and degree requirements are satisfied prior to enrollment in advanced coursework. The suggested plan of study is provided as a guide. A

student's actual plan of study may vary based on term of admission, course availability, transfer credit, and other academic considerations. Students should consult with their academic advisor to develop an individualized plan of study.

Students must complete both the Intelligence and Security areas of concentration, along with six credit hours of approved graduate electives. The program culminates in either the Human Security and Resilience Capstone or a Graduate Thesis, as approved by the Program Chair. Students should work with their academic advisor to select electives and the culminating experience that best support their academic and professional goals while satisfying degree requirements.

Core Requirements

GSIS 505	Homeland Security and Intelligence Integration	3
GSIS 510	Strategic Intelligence: Diplomacy, Covert Operations, and War	3
RSCH 670	Research Methods	3
MHSR 690 or GSIS 700	Human Security and Resilience Capstone Graduate Thesis	3
Total Credits		12

Specialization

Intelligence

GSIS 502	Fundamentals of Security and Intelligence	3
GSIS 511	Strategic Analysis	3
GSIS 512	Comparative Global Intel	3
GSIS 515	Legal and Ethical Issues in National Security and Intelligence	3
Total Credits		12

Security

MHSR 511	Cybersecurity, Governance, and Human Security	3
MHSR 515	International Law and U.S. Security Policy	3
MHSR 520	Principles of International Conflict Resolution	3
MHSR 530	Environmental Security	3
Total Credits		12

Electives

Electives (Approved by the Program Chair)	6
Total Credits	6

Suggested Plan of Study

Two Year Plan

Year One

Requirements	Credits
GSIS 505 - Homeland Security and Intelligence Integration	3
Semester Hours	3

Requirements	Credits
GSIS 502 - Fundamentals of Security and Intelligence	3
Semester Hours	3

Requirements	Credits
GSIS 510 - Strategic Intelligence: Diplomacy, Covert Operations, and War	3
Semester Hours	3

Requirements	Credits
GSIS 511 - Strategic Analysis	3
Semester Hours	3

Requirements	Credits
Open Elective	3
Semester Hours	3

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 15

Year Two

Requirements	Credits
RSCH 670 - Research Methods	3
Semester Hours	3

Requirements	Credits
GSIS 512 - Comparative Global Intel	3
Semester Hours	3

Requirements	Credits
GSIS 515 - Legal and Ethical Issues in National Security and Intelligence	3
Semester Hours	3

Requirements	Credits
Open Elective	3
Semester Hours	3

Requirements	Credits
MHSR 690 - Human Security and Resilience Capstone or GSIS 700 - Graduate Thesis	3
Semester Hours	3

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 15

One Year Plan

Year One

Requirements	Credits
GSIS 505 - Homeland Security and Intelligence Integration	3
GSIS 502 - Fundamentals of Security and Intelligence	3
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
GSIS 510 - Strategic Intelligence: Diplomacy, Covert Operations, and War	3
GSIS 511 - Strategic Analysis	3
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
Open Elective	3
RSCH 670 - Research Methods	3
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
GSIS 515 - Legal and Ethical Issues in National Security and Intelligence	3

GSIS 512 - Comparative Global Intel	3
Semester Hours	6

Requirements	Credits
MHSR 690 - Human Security and Resilience Capstone or GSIS 700 - Graduate Thesis	3
Open Elective	3
Semester Hours	6

Total Credits

Total Hours for All Requirements: 30

Estimated Cost of Attendance

Estimated Cost of Attendance: California Student Information (<https://catalog.erau.edu/student-life/student-affairs/california-student/>)