

School of Government and International Affairs Strategic Priorities

SGIA ADS (Academic Distinction Statement)

The School of Government and International Affairs prepares students to be engaged citizens and high-performing professionals with the skills and knowledge to address vital local, regional, national, and international challenges through relevant curricula with experiential learning, community involvement, and global engagement. Through various undergraduate and graduate programs and outreach activities, the faculty and students work together to engage in independent scholarship and professional development in areas such as domestic and international politics and public administration.

SGIA Priorities

1. Enhancing Student Success in POLS 1101

SGIA places strong emphasis on supporting student achievement in POLS 1101, a foundational course essential for all majors at KSU. To maintain at least an 85% success rate in this course, the school will leverage the university's student support systems, including Supplemental Instruction Leaders and the Foundation to Fly Program. Additionally, SGIA will increase participation in Early Alerts and Midterm Grade submission. The school will also provide customized support for the sections with low pass rates based on the specific needs of the instructor.

1.1 Maintain or increase the average pass rate in POLS 1101 to at least 85%.

- Ensure full participation in the Supplemental Instruction Leader (SIL) program for large course sections.
- Promote the use of Wing Leaders and the Foundation to Fly program, especially in online sections.
- Provide targeted support for course sections with high DFW (Drop, Fail, Withdrawal) rates, tailored to specific instructor needs.
- Increase faculty participation in submitting midterm grades to 85% and early alert submissions to 90%.

2. Expanding Student Engagement and Experiential Learning

SGIA is committed to building a lively student community. The school enhances experiential learning through active student clubs, undergraduate research, strong internship programs, and cohort-based communities, promoting both professional growth and practical readiness. For undergraduates, SGIA supports various organizations, including Model United Nations, Model NATO, Mock Trial, and Model African Union, which provide hands-on leadership and public speaking opportunities. Engagement-focused groups like the International Affairs Student Organization and the Student Organization of Politics encourage civic participation, peer connection, and continuous professional development.

For graduate students, SGIA is increasing efforts to boost engagement and practical learning, while also prioritizing the growth and development of its graduate programs. This includes using graduate capstone projects to help students apply their academic knowledge to real-world problems, in collaboration with community partners and organizations. We provide regular professional development opportunities to better prepare students for the workforce. Additionally, new internship and research opportunities are being created specifically for graduate students to support their hands-on learning. The Public Administration Student Association also plays a vital role in enhancing the graduate experience by offering networking events, professional development activities, and peer support tailored for those pursuing public administration. International Policy Management program's cohort model and study abroad programs prepare students for professional work.

Furthermore, SGIA aims to amplify internship opportunities and participation—including the Georgia Legislative Internship Program and DC Owls programs—while creating a cohort-based learning community for Political Science majors, Civic Leadership and the Engaged Scholars Pathway. To increase the number of internships, SGIA will deepen and expand strategic partnerships, redesign POLS 3398 around public-facing products, including e-portfolio and micro-credentials, and plan and implement early and consistent promotion of experiential learning opportunities that will strengthen the internship pipeline among SGIA students. Collaboration with the Honors College is also expanding to enable more SGIA students to take part in Honors programming. By fostering these communities and initiatives at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, SGIA aims to help the students succeed academically and thrive beyond the university.

2.1 Expand and Enhance Graduate Programs

2.1.1 Expand Graduate Enrollment and Pipeline Initiatives

- Increase MPA enrollment to 100 students and MSIPM enrollment to 28 students by 2028.
- Establish a Public Administration minor to serve as a graduate pipeline.
- Enhance recruitment efforts in collaboration with the college and university.
- Boost class visits and offer more virtual information sessions to prospective students.
- Expand program capacity to effectively support the growing graduate student population.

2.1.2 Expand Internship Opportunities and Enhance the MPA Capstone Experience

- Increase the number of available internships for graduate students by strengthening partnerships with community organizations.
- Reform the MPA capstone to incorporate both research and practical experiences directly connected to community-based projects, ensuring students gain relevant, hands-on learning aligned with professional and academic goals.

2.1.3 Develop and Promote Programming for Graduate Students

- Collaborate with Radow College and the Graduate College to broaden the impact and accessibility of graduate programming.
- Schedule graduate workshops earlier and add them to the SGIA Event Calendar to ensure greater visibility and participation.
- Coordinate with Radow College to make graduate workshops available to all Radow graduate students, enhancing inclusivity and engagement.
- Design workshops and professional development opportunities tailored to the specific needs and interests of graduate students.

2.1.4 Increase Enrollment in Double-Owl Pathways for the MPA Program

- Collaborate with Radow College and related departments to expand program visibility and student access.
- Schedule targeted class visits to introduce Double-Owl Pathways and their benefits to prospective MPA students.
- Announce Double-Owl Pathways in newsletters to increase awareness and promote participation among graduate students.
- Leverage social media campaigns to highlight Double-Owl Pathways, engaging a wider audience and encouraging enrollment.

2.1.5 Create an advisory board to support the IPM program

2.2 Foster a Supportive Student Community

2.2.1 Establish a Cohort-Based Learning Community for Political Science Majors (CLESP: Civic Leadership and Engaged Scholars Pathway)

- Recruit a minimum of 30 students to participate in the inaugural cohort.
- Develop and offer dedicated courses tailored to the needs and interests of this cohort.
- Organize professional development opportunities and social events specifically for cohort members.

2.2.2 Strengthen Partnerships with the Honors College and Increase SGIA Student Participation in the Honors Program

- Collaborate with the Honors College to align academic requirements and facilitate a seamless pathway for SGIA students.
- Actively promote Honors College opportunities in Freshman and Sophomore classes to encourage early engagement.
- Utilize the Civic Leadership and Engaged Scholars Pathway (CLESP) as a strategic tool to support and increase Honors College participation among SGIA students.
- Highlight and promote the Lindy Radow Humanities and Social Sciences Scholarship within SGIA to attract and support prospective Honors students.

2.2.3 Develop and Maintain a Comprehensive SGIA Events Database to Boost Participation

- Establish and regularly update a centralized SGIA events calendar to improve coordination and visibility of all events.
- Schedule events prior to the start of each semester to allow faculty the opportunity to integrate them into course syllabi.
- Increase the number of events that include alumni participation to strengthen connections and enhance student engagement.

2.2.4 Establish Formal Campus Partnerships to Promote Collaborative Programming and Enhance Civil Discourse

- Develop and formalize partnerships with campus organizations, such as the Department of Student Leadership and Student Volunteerism and Service, to support joint programming initiatives.
- Collaborate on events that foster civil discourse, including Constitution Week, Voter Registration and Engagement, and Civic Dialogue activities.

2.2.5 Enhance the effectiveness of faculty and student newsletters and expand SGIA's engagement on social media.

2.2.6 Increase Alumni Engagement with SGIA

- Distribute the monthly newsletter through the Alumni Office to keep alumni informed about SGIA activities.
- Actively interact with alumni via social media to foster ongoing connections.
- Invite alumni to campus as guest speakers and event participants to strengthen their involvement with current students.
- Highlight accomplished alumni on the SGIA website and across communication channels to celebrate their achievements and inspire others.
- Establish or revitalize the SGIA Advisory Board, ensuring alumni representation and participation in school initiatives.

2.3 Prepare Students for Professional Careers

2.3.1 Expand SGIA Student Internship Opportunities

- Collaborate with internal units, including the External Affairs team and the CPD's Employer Relations and Experiential Education teams, to identify operational improvements and develop a targeted list of external partnerships for the School.
- Redesign the POLS 3398 course as a pilot, focusing on public-facing products such as e-portfolios and micro-credentials to better prepare students for professional roles.
- Plan and implement early, ongoing promotion of experiential learning opportunities to strengthen the SGIA internship pipeline and ensure that prospective interns are well-prepared and competitive.

2.3.2 Enhance the National Prominence and Participation of Student Competition Teams and Clubs

- Increase the competitiveness of student competition teams to achieve national recognition.
- Encourage greater student involvement in SGIA clubs and teams.
- Promote student clubs and competition teams through SGIA's communication channels to boost visibility.
- Provide targeted support for student clubs, especially when they participate in national competitions.

2.3.3 Integrate Professional Development Opportunities into School Curriculum and Events

- Invite professionals from diverse fields to speak with students, offering insights into various career paths and industry trends.
- Organize skill-building workshops on topics such as elevator pitches, effective communication, and preparing graduate school applications to enhance students' professional readiness.

2.3.4 Launch a Political Communication minor designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary for professional careers in political communication.

3. Fostering Research and Community Collaboration

SGIA is committed to advancing research that has a significant societal impact. The school prioritizes increasing faculty research productivity through targeted support, aligning faculty workloads to encourage scholarly output, and fostering interdisciplinary collaborations within and beyond the university. Opportunities for student research participation are being expanded at both undergraduate and graduate levels, while partnerships with community organizations and external stakeholders are cultivated to translate academic inquiry into real-world solutions and community benefit. We are also committed to sharing our research in publicly accessible forums, such as public lectures, panels, and outlets like *The Conversation*, among others.

3.1 Establish SGIA as a National Leader in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) in Political Science and Public Affairs

- Promote the two journals edited by SGIA faculty: *Journal of Political Science Education* and *Journal of Public Affairs Education*.
- Increase the volume and impact of SoTL scholarship produced by SGIA faculty.

3.2 Enhance SGIA Faculty Grant Activity

- Encourage SGIA faculty to submit a greater number of grant applications.
- Increase faculty applications for funding opportunities within Radow College.
- Expand efforts to secure external funding through grants.
- Facilitate more forums and events that promote interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Create additional opportunities for faculty to engage in policy-relevant research projects.
- Align faculty workload allocations to support increased research productivity, with a particular emphasis on grant proposal development and submission.

3.3 Expand Research Collaboration with Campus Units

- Host regular meetings and research presentations to facilitate information sharing and collaboration.
- Invite external participants to SGIA Brown Bag presentations to broaden perspectives and foster connections.
- Organize public lectures featuring external experts whose research or professional work aligns with SGIA's interests.

3.4 Expand Opportunities for Community-Engaged Research for SGIA Faculty

- Collaborate with the Office of External Affairs to strengthen relationships with community partners.
- Utilize MPA program connections to engage with local governments and support mutually beneficial research initiatives.
- Leverage the SGIA alumni network to identify and pursue community-based research opportunities.
- Encourage faculty to attend and participate in community events and networking opportunities to build partnerships and increase visibility.
- Promote faculty publications in public-facing outlets, such as *The Conversation*, to share research findings with a broader audience.

3.5 Increase Undergraduate Student Participation in Faculty-Led Research

- Promote KSU and RCHSS programs, as well as available funding opportunities, that support undergraduate research.
- Feature student researchers and their faculty advisors through marketing and communication channels to increase awareness and recognition.