

# PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES - M.A.

College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Peace and Conflict Studies  
[www.kent.edu/spcs](http://www.kent.edu/spcs)

## About This Program

The Peace and Conflict Studies M.A. program covers topics such as conflict resolution, social justice, human rights and nonviolent communication. With experienced faculty and practical experiences, you will gain the knowledge and skills to become a leader in promoting peaceful conflict resolution in local and global communities. Read more...

## Contact Information

- Program Coordinator: **Landon Hancock** | [lhancoc2@kent.edu](mailto:lhancoc2@kent.edu) | 330-672-0904
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

## Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
  - In person
- **Location:**
  - Kent Campus

## Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries\*

### Arbitrators, mediators, and conciliators

- 7.7% faster than the average
- 7,300 number of jobs
- \$66,130 potential earnings

### Human resources managers

- 6.3% faster than the average
- 165,200 number of jobs
- \$121,220 potential earnings

### Human resources specialists

- 7.0% faster than the average
- 666,500 number of jobs
- \$63,490 potential earnings

### Additional Careers

- Intergovernmental or international governmental officer
- International humanitarian and relief specialist
- International project management and development specialist

\* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at

which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

## Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in peace studies or related discipline from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 2.750 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale<sup>1</sup>
- Official transcript(s)
- Résumé or curriculum vitae
- Goal statement highlighting relevant professional experience and academic background
- Writing sample
- Two letters of recommendation from professional or academic evaluators
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:
  - Minimum 550 TOEFL PBT score
  - Minimum 79 TOEFL IBT score
  - Minimum 77 MELAB score
  - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
  - Minimum 58 PTE score
  - Minimum 110 Duolingo English score

Admission to the program is competitive and selective. Applicants will be reviewed holistically, by the school's graduate coordinator, who may conduct interviews with select candidates to ensure qualifications and fit with the program. The coordinator will render admission decisions after consultations with the faculty and school director.

<sup>1</sup> Applicants who do not meet the GPA criteria but have extensive experience in the peace-building field are encouraged to apply. They may be conditionally admitted if all other admission requirements are met. After earning a 3.000 GPA in their first semester, they will be considered fully admitted.

## Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
  - Application deadline: April 15 (international student) and July 1 (domestic student)

*Applications received after these deadlines will be considered on a space-available basis.*

## Program Requirements

### Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
PACS 60000	FOUNDATIONS OF CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT	3
PACS 60001	ADVANCED NEGOTIATION	3
PACS 60009	LEADERSHIP FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE	3
POL 60010	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS <sup>1</sup>	3

Major Elective, choose from the following:		3-6
PACS 50089	INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES	
PACS 50090	STUDY AWAY: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES	
PACS 59091	VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES	
PACS 60020	IDENTITY DRIVEN CONFLICTS	
PACS 60021	POWER, CONFLICT AND THE POLITICS OF GENDER	
PACS 60022	SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND NONVIOLENT CONFLICTS	
PACS 60023	PEACE PSYCHOLOGY	
PACS 60024	VISUAL METHODS FOR PEACE AND CHANGE	
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
Choose from the following:		3-6
PACS 60099	INTERVENTION DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES	
PACS 60192	INTERNSHIP IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES	
PACS 60199	THESIS I	
<b>Concentrations</b>		
Choose from the following:		15
Applied Conflict Transformation		
Peace, Conflict and Development		
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>36</b>

<sup>1</sup> If POL 60010 is not available, students may substitute COMM 65040, GEOG 60900, RMS 65516, SBS 63010 or SOC 62219 with faculty approval.

## Applied Conflict Transformation Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Concentration Requirements</b>		
PACS 60002	ADVANCED MEDIATION <sup>1</sup>	3
PACS 60003	COMMUNITY-BASED CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION	3
PACS 60004	ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT AND COOPERATION	3
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		6
AFS 53100	RACE, CLASS AND FEMINIST THOUGHT	
AFS 57100	RACE, GENDER AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	
AFS 57122	SEMINAR IN ACTIVISM AND SOCIAL CHANGE	
CRIM 57003	RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE	
PACS 60040	FACILITATION AND TRAINING: DESIGN AND PRACTICE	
PACS 60041	PEACE EDUCATION	
PACS 60042	PUBLIC SECTOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION	
POL 60106	URBAN POLICY AND POLITICS	
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students who matriculate into the program without requisite mediation experience will take PACS 58080.

## Peace, Conflict and Development Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Concentration Requirements</b>		
PACS 60005	PEACE, CONFLICT AND DEVELOPMENT: LOCAL-GLOBAL DYNAMICS	3
PACS 60006	POST-CONFLICT PEACEBUILDING	3
PACS 60007	PRAXIS IN CONFLICT-SENSITIVE DEVELOPMENT	3
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		6
GEOG 51077	WATER AND SOCIETY	
GEOG 54010	GEOGRAPHIES OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT	
PACS 60070	CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION	
PACS 60071	SOCIETY TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY	
PACS 60072	ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND CONFLICT	
POL 60502	GLOBAL GOVERNANCE	
POL 60510	POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT	
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

## Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Analyze and apply key theories, concepts and policies relevant to the field of peace and conflict studies, in general and in their specific concentrations.
2. Synthesize the interplay of conflict sources at different levels of analyses (from interpersonal to structural) with the dynamics relevant to all conflict situations.
3. Analyze and apply appropriate intervention practices for successful conflict resolution or transformation at relevant levels of conflict.
4. Describe and evaluate the key role that leadership plays in conflict intervention and crisis management.
5. Integrate and apply learning from across the program to real-world situations.
6. Apply knowledge about the field to develop personally tailored career plans.

## Dual Degree with Master of Business Administration

Students have the opportunity to complete a dual degree program with the M.A. degree in Peace and Conflict Studies and the Master of Business Administration degree. A separate application must be submitted for each program. Students can view admission requirements for each program on their respective catalog page.

The M.B.A./M.A. dual degree converges the field of conflict management and the field of business. Students learn how business works alongside understanding the dynamics of conflict and how to successfully transform it to succeed in business and to transform organizational cultures.

## Dual Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
ACCT 63037	FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING FOR DECISION MAKING	2
ACCT 63038	MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING FOR DECISION MAKING	2
BA 64005	ANALYTICS FOR DECISION MAKING	2
BA 64026	SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT	2
CIS 64042	GLOBALIZATION AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY	2
ECON 62021	MACROECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS	2
ECON 62022	MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS	2
FIN 66050	LAW AND ETHICS	2
FIN 66060	MANAGERIAL FINANCE	2
HRM 64271	HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	2
MGMT 64158	LEADERSHIP	2
MGMT 68051	BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT I <sup>1</sup>	0-1
MKTG 65051	MARKETING MANAGEMENT	2
PACS 60000	FOUNDATIONS OF CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT	3
PACS 60001	ADVANCED NEGOTIATION	3
PACS 60002	ADVANCED MEDIATION	3
PACS 60003	COMMUNITY-BASED CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION	3
PACS 60004	ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT AND COOPERATION	3
PACS 60009	LEADERSHIP FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE	3
POL 60010	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS	3
Business Administration Elective (ACCT, BA, CIS, ECON, FIN, HRM, MGMT, MKTG)		3
Peace and Conflict Studies Electives, choose from the following:		3-6
PACS 50089	INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES	
PACS 50090	STUDY AWAY: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES	
PACS 59091	VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES	
PACS 60020	IDENTITY DRIVEN CONFLICTS	
PACS 60021	POWER, CONFLICT AND THE POLITICS OF GENDER	
PACS 60022	SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND NONVIOLENT CONFLICTS	
PACS 60023	PEACE PSYCHOLOGY	
PACS 60024	VISUAL METHODS FOR PEACE AND CHANGE	
<b>Culminating Requirement</b>		
PACS 60099	INTERVENTION DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES	3-6
or PACS 60192	INTERNSHIP IN PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES	
or PACS 60199	THESIS I	
MGMT 64399	BUSINESS STRATEGY	3
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>60-61</b>

<sup>1</sup> MGMT 68051 may be waived for students with at least two years of full-time work experience.

## Full Description

The Master of Arts degree in Peace and Conflict Studies is designed for students interested in gaining the knowledge and practical skills necessary to become a professional peace practitioner, one who is equipped to promote peaceful change and social justice whether in the local community, across the country or at the international level.

Students have the opportunity to learn at the School of Peace and Conflict Studies, Kent State's 'living memorial' to the four students killed on May 4, 1970, and one of the oldest and most well-known institutions for the study of peace and conflict. Students work with faculty who are leading experts in their field and with students from all over the world – all of whom are dedicated to building peaceful local communities, societies and states in a time of increasing incivility, rancor and conflict.

In the program, students examine the causes and consequences of violence; develop methods for preventing, resolving and transforming conflicts; and critically analyze the values and institutions of peace. Students study relevant academic and policy literature and develop an advanced understanding of the field. Above all, however, they embark on a multidisciplinary program with a strong focus on experiential learning, the development of advanced skills relevant to the field (e.g., mediation, conflict analysis, project management), training in leadership and career planning for future employment, whether as a peace practitioner or researcher.

Through the school's partnership with the Center for Conflict Management at the University of Rwanda, students have the opportunity to undertake a study abroad course in Africa to examine both how the country has responded to the challenges of post-genocide reconstruction, and how it is addressing contemporary environmental challenges.

The Peace and Conflict Studies comprises two concentrations:

- The **Applied Conflict Transformation** concentration focuses on the domestic dynamics of peace, including human relations, organizational conflict and conflict resolution, group and community conflict transformation. Students specialize in a wide range of electives (e.g., peace psychology, public sector conflict transformation, peace education). This concentration provides students with knowledge and applied skills necessary to pursue a career in fields such as mediation, arbitration and dispute resolution; in the service and social and community service sector; or in roles in businesses, non-profits and government entities that requires skills of mediation and conflict resolution (e.g., human resources).
- The **Peace, Conflict and Development** concentration explores the intersection between peace, conflict and development in fragile or insecure states and societies around the world. Students examine policy and practice in the fields of international conflict prevention, international peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building, sustainable development and good governance. Students specialize in a wide range of electives, including on issues such as environmental change and conflict, reconciliation after conflict and the global governance of military technologies. This concentration is designed to appeal to those students wishing to obtain work in fields and organizations dealing with the local and international dimensions of peace, conflict and development in the global south, including governments, international organizations, international development and humanitarian-relief non-governmental organizations (NGO).