Conflict & Resolution Studies

The Conflict and Resolution Studies Program offers both a minor and a concentration which provide interdisciplinary and international perspectives on the causes of conflict and the possibilities of resolution. Courses in the program offer theoretical insights into the causes of conflict—some positive and creative but far too many tragically destructive. The program courses embrace the study of interpersonal, intergroup, and societal conflicts in different cultures across the world. Exploration of resolution strategies, ethical and social justice issues, and leadership qualities are features of the program. The minor provides interested students with the opportunity to explore the area of Conflict and Resolution in greater depth than the concentration.

Minor Requirements
Six courses are required for the completion of the minor. They are CRS 101: Introduction to Conflict and Resolution Studies, CRS 247: Topics in Conflict and Resolution Studies and four additional CRS or CRS affiliated courses. These four courses must represent at least two academic disciplines other than CRS, and at least one must be at the 300-level or above.

Concentration Requirements
Four courses are required for the completion of the concentration. They are CRS 101: Introduction to Conflict and Resolution Studies and three additional CRS or CRS affiliated courses. These three courses must represent at least two academic disciplines, other than CRS.

Affiliated courses are approved by the CRS Steering Committee. With advance approval by the program director, a student may complete either an internship or independent study as one of the electives.

Sample of Affiliated Courses
BUS 301 Organizational Behavior and Management
COM 101 Intro to Rhetoric & Communication
CRS 247 Mediation: Work and Individual
CRS 310 Environmental Conflict Management
EDU 205 Role of Geography in Conflict Resolution
ENG 226 Faith in Poetry
EVS 101 Environmental Studies
HIS 270 African-American Protest
POL 232 Politics of the Middle East
PSY 225 Social Psychology
SPN 289 New World Encounters

A full list of courses and descriptions can be found online in the College catalog.

Beyond the Classroom
Students have many opportunities for research, internships, conferences, and networking beyond the classroom that give them an advantage to prepare for life after W&J.

Sample Graduate Programs
- Notre Dame Kroc Institute of Peace Studies in the Keogh School of Global Affairs
- George Washington University Elliot School of International Affairs
- University of Salisbury Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution
- GSPIA at University of Pittsburgh
- M.A. and Ph.D. with fellowships and stipends

Sample Careers
- Political affairs specialist with mediation skills in local, state, or federal offices specializing in health, public relations, policy development, or negotiations
- Human resources: client satisfaction/crisis aversion for industry, hospitals, insurers
- Lawyer: civil, family, federal court, non-profit
- Mediator: personal, local, national, international conflict transformation

Alumni Achievements
- M.A. completed at George Washington Elliott School of International Affairs specializing in Health Policy and Negotiation
- M.A. completed at Salisbury University specializing in conflict transformation, head of the teaching assistant program
- attending Notre Dame Law School with a focus on Human Rights
- attending Queens University’s George J. Mitchell Institute of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice