



SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY
CAREER SERVICES

**INTERDISCIPLINARY
STUDIES:
PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES**

MAJOR CAREER GUIDE

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ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Follow this link to the Salem State University Interdisciplinary Studies home page. Here you will find program information, degree options, course listings, concentration descriptions, events information and much more:

https://catalog.salemstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=38&poid=4531

There are also several minors available to further enhance the writing, research, and analysis skills that are a foundation of the major and concentration. To find complete descriptions, navigate to the Interdisciplinary Studies homepage listed above or contact Professor Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello at: educlosorcello@salemstate.edu

- *African-American Studies*
- *American Studies*
- *Asian Studies*
- *Eastern European and Russian Studies*
- *Information Tech in Arts and Sciences*
- *Latin American and Latino Studies*
- *Marine Studies*
- *Peace Studies*
- *Legal Studies*
- *Religious Studies*
- *Women's Studies*
- *Urban Studies*

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Are you an Interdisciplinary Studies major considering the Peace Studies concentration? Follow the link below to your concentration on the "What Can I Do With My Major?" resource on the Salem State University Career Services web site. By doing so, you can learn more about how to connect your concentration to your future career: <https://elearning.salemstate.edu/courses/939337/pages/what-can-you-do-with-your-major>

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

As in any profession, staying connected to professionals in your field is vital. Below are links to professional associations for professionals in this concentration. Stay up to date with industry trends, connect with fellow professionals and utilize resources for job searching.

[Peace Corps](#)

[US Aid](#)

[US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants](#)

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWING

Informational interviewing is a method of gathering information about career options, industries and employers. It is an opportunity to learn about a particular job from someone already in the field. It is *not* a job interview, but it can help you learn about job opportunities and build your network for when the job search comes. This is an ideal chance to help you gain a more thorough understanding of a particular industry or job. It's also a great way to determine "is this what I want to do?" and to learn about different paths others have taken to get where they are.

JOB SHADOWING

Another way to gain access and information to your industry of choice is by job shadowing. Job shadowing is an opportunity to follow a professional in your field for an agreed upon amount of time. Typically, job shadow experiences will last anywhere from one day to one week. Much like an informational interview, this is your opportunity to see firsthand a "day in the life" of a professional.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is another great way to learn about what to expect when working in your industry. Similar to a job shadow, you will be able to see a "day in the life" of a professional while also contributing some of your own skills or services. Volunteering can give you a chance to gain new expertise and help you narrow down your specific interests in the field. Follow the links below to help you identify current volunteer opportunities:

<http://volunteer.nsuw.org/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Value of Interdisciplinary Studies from a Student's Perspective

- <http://isd.hss.kennesaw.edu/alumni-friends/>

SAMPLE RESUME

HOLLY HARMONIOUS

37 Loring Avenue, Salem, MA 01970 | h_harmonious@salemstate.edu | 111-222-3333

EDUCATION

Salem State University, Salem, MA

May 20XX

Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Interdisciplinary Studies

Concentration: *Peace and Conflict Studies*

Related Coursework: Social Justice & Development in Ugandan Communities (Independent Study), Global Social Justice and Social Policy, International Politics, Peace and Peace-Building, Alternatives to Violence, Non-Violent Protest in the National Parks (Independent Study)

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Boston, MA

September 20XX–May 20XX

Intern

- Promoted educational events related to unrest in the community and unjust school policies
- Encouraged authentic dialogues to identify an action plan and avoid violent protests related to inadequate academic support for underrepresented groups of children
- Provided front desk assistance and monitored the family support hotline
- Contributed content and completed research for the “Transforming the Boston Public Schools” publication to explore topics such as race, class, and disability in the school system

The New England Holocaust Memorial, Boston, MA

May 20XX- August 20XX

Intern

- Acted as a liaison to visitors by providing guided tours and information
- Assisted with event planning to promote attendance and donations to the organization
- Engaged with the wider community via presentations to provide an awareness of discrimination, intolerance, and genocide
- Answered inquiries about volunteer opportunities via phone and email

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

HAWC, Salem, MA

September 20XX-May 20XX

Volunteer Advocate

- Handled hotline calls to provide compassionate support and resources
- Responded to emergency situations with urgency, contacting the proper authorities as needed
- Provided legal advocacy to survivors of domestic violence to obtain restraining orders
- Translated legal documents and provided administrative support

SKILLS

Computer: Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, iMovie

Language: Spanish, Italian

Certifications: CPR

ACTIVITIES

Hispanic American Society, Student Government Association, Philosophy Club

SAMPLE COVER LETTER

HOLLY HARMONIOUS

37 Loring Avenue, Salem, MA 01970 | 111-222-3333 | h_harmonious@salemstate.edu

June 3, 20XX

Eduardo Gonzalez
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Inc.
1128 16th Street NW
Washington, D.C., 20036

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

I am contacting you to express interest in the position of Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Policy Associate that was recently referred to me by Professor Jeremy Morales. As my resume indicates, I am a recent graduate of Salem State University, where I practiced exercising the same values and skills that are outlined in your position: commitment to social justice and civic engagement, leadership, and strong communication skills. I have completed my Bachelor of Liberal Studies in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Peace and Conflict Studies and believe that my skills and experiences make me a qualified candidate for the Policy Associate position.

Your website specified a need for someone with experience working in a nonprofit environment. While working as an Intern at the nonprofit New England Holocaust Memorial, I was able to deliver presentations to potential donors and community members on topics such as genocide awareness and intolerance in order to secure support for the organization. I was expected to be knowledgeable about the laws and policies associated with receiving these donations. In this role, I was also able to appreciate a diverse set of learning styles and cultural identities through my coordination of volunteers on site. These skills and experiences carried over to my position at Massachusetts Advocates for Children, where I further explored social issues, such as race and class in the school system. I also created action plans and contributed written content for publications in support of the cause in this position, both of which were specified as duties in your posting.

I am passionate about creating authentic dialogues and pursuing peaceful departure from social issues, which is a vision that I know is upheld within the Institute. My strong communication skills coupled with my experience in the Volunteer Advocate position at HAWC and in the Student Government Association will be beneficial while working in Policy Associate position at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. I am confident that I am an excellent candidate. I appreciate your time and look forward to talking with you further about the position of Policy Associate. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Holly Harmonious

SAMPLE COMPANIES

AMERICORPS

COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK OF SALEM

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

MASSACHUSETTS COLLABORATIVE LAW COUNCIL

MASSACHUSETTS LEAGUE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

PEACE CORPS

SALEM THEATER COMPANY

THE BOSTON GLOBE

VETERAN'S HEALTH ADMINISTRATION