The United States Military Academy at West Point hosts SCUSA every fall. It is the oldest and largest conference of its type and is attended by approximately 200 undergraduate students from over 100 colleges and universities worldwide. The experiences of SCUSA inspire many delegates to pursue a career in public service. Equally important, the four-day conference provides a foundation for strong civil-military relationships among future leaders in the military and public policy.

- **Challenging Existing Approaches/Developing New Ideas**
  Throughout the conference, the student delegates will discuss and debate the impact of past and current events on the national strategy of the United States and work to formulate sound policy recommendations for the United States Government.

- **Unique Interaction with America’s Military**
  While attending SCUSA, delegates will get a unique glimpse into the daily life of the United States Corps of Cadets, future officers in the U.S. Army. Delegates interact with cadets on their roundtables and with West Point’s staff and faculty throughout the conference. They will work together with cadets, forging lasting bonds of friendship that draw on the values, intelligence, and skills of both groups.

- **Mentorship Beyond the Classroom**
  SCUSA draws experts from academia and public service to facilitate roundtable discussions and guide delegates in developing a series of policy recommendations for their table region or topic.

- **Past Distinguished Guest Speakers:**
  • Secretary Henry Kissinger
  • Secretary Madeleine Albright
  • Ambassador Susan Rice
  • General Paul Nakasone

- **Virtual Program**
  Due to ongoing public health concerns, we are offering a virtual option for the conference in conjunction with the in-person experience. The virtual option will still provide the rigor and expertise of the in-person experience through live-streaming panels and video communications with your table.

**Reflections on SCUSA**

“SCUSA was an incredibly enlightening and powerful experience for us both. The SCUSA conference was one of the most intellectually stimulating experiences of our lives. The opportunity to collaborate and engage with some of the brightest and most well-traveled individuals introduced us to a passionate community of motivated change-makers.”
- Liza Patterson & Jackson Price, Skidmore College

“SCUSA was truly incredible. I have attended other conferences and was so impressed at the entire programming vision that the cadets at West Point had designed. SCUSA is unique in that it splits delegates into different groups...and [with] two of the foremost experts in the field to sit down and discuss what informs policy on this issue.”
- Sam Collins, Tufts University

“SCUSA provided an environment for me to meet diverse people to discuss topics with other cadets and students as well as explore staffing and planning a large-scale event. It was an incredible opportunity to learn and expand my knowledge on both national and international conflicts and solutions.”
- Lillian Brown, SCUSA 72 Commander
**SCUSA 73 Roundtable Topics**

- Latin America: Supporting Democracy and American Influence in the Region
- Africa: A Growing American Interest
- China: Implications of its Rise
- Russian Aggression Against Ukraine: The U.S. Response
- India: Courting Asia’s Rising Power
- The Arctic: Opportunities, Challenges, and a Way Forward
- Europe and the United States: Maintaining Common Values and Interests
- The Middle East: The Future of U.S. Involvement
- The American Model of Democracy
- U.S. Foreign Policymaking in Politically Polarized Times
- Climate Change: Can the U.S. Lead the International Fight?
- An Enduring World Order: The Future of International Norms and Institutions
- Economic Populism and Nationalism: Challenges to Globalization
- Media and Public Opinion: Tools of Polarization and Revision?
- Public Health: Lessons Learned to Address the Next Pandemic
- Space Commercialization and Weaponization: An Unregulated Final Frontier
- The Changing Character of War: The Cyber Domain and Weapons Technology Proliferation

**How does SCUSA work?**

**Key Conference Events**

- **November 2**
  Arrival, registration, welcome, and opening senior panel discussion of the conference theme.

- **November 3**
  Roundtable sessions and keynote address.

- **November 4**
  Roundtable sessions, weapons and equipment interactive display, working roundtable dinner.

- **November 5**
  Closing presentation of policy recommendations. Delegate departure.

**Preparing for SCUSA**

Prior to the SCUSA conference, delegates should prepare to discuss their roundtable topic as it relates to the conference theme. The SCUSA staff will publish table papers to assist in initiating discussion on the assigned topic.

SCUSA 73’s theme is “American Foreign Policy in an Era of Polarized Politics and Revisionist Powers.” America faces a mix of emerging and renewed obstacles to crafting effective and legitimate foreign policy. The evolving geopolitical environment increasingly challenges US power and principles abroad. Domestically, American policymakers operate in a politically-charged and culturally-divided landscape, inhibiting compromise and effective policymaking while sometimes calling into question long-standing external commitments. In advancing its interests and values abroad, the United States encounters foreign powers seeking to revise or overturn existing international relationships, transnational institutions and norms, and even state boundaries. As familiar adversaries seek to alter regional balances in Europe and the Middle East, and as the challenge of China gathers momentum, America must act effectively and with lasting purpose to maintain its global leadership. Policymakers will continue to grapple with a crucial question: How should the United States safeguard its values and interests in an era of political polarization and revisionist powers?

**Find SCUSA Online**

- [https://www.westpoint.edu/academics/academic-departments/social-sciences/conferences/student-conference-on-us-affairs](https://www.westpoint.edu/academics/academic-departments/social-sciences/conferences/student-conference-on-us-affairs)
- [https://twitter.com/scusawp](https://twitter.com/scusawp)
- [https://www.linkedin.com/company/studentconferences-us-affairs](https://www.linkedin.com/company/studentconferences-us-affairs)
- [https://www.instagram.com/scusa_wp/](https://www.instagram.com/scusa_wp/)

**Important Questions**

**Q:** How do I attend SCUSA?

**A:** Contact your academic advisor at your college or university to discuss your interest in SCUSA.

**Q:** What is the registration fee & payment due?

**A:** The registration fee is $175 ($200 after October 7th). Payment can be made by credit card. SCUSA points of contact will receive a link for the registration site in early September. All payments must be made by **October 14**.

**Q:** How do I get to West Point?

**A:** Students pay for their own air or rail transportation. The SCUSA cadet staff will arrange ground transportation for delegates arriving at Newark, LaGuardia, and Stewart Airports, as well as Croton-Harmon or Garrison Train Stations. Delegates may also drive to West Point.

**Q:** Where will I stay?

**A:** Delegates will be housed in cadet barracks and must adhere to barracks policies during the conference.

**Q:** What if I am 27 years old or older during the conference?

**A:** Students who are 27 years old during the conference will not be accepted due to legal restrictions preventing us from housing students who are 27 or older on campus. No exceptions will be made for any reason.

**Q:** How do I prepare for SCUSA?

**A:** Delegates will be informed of their roundtable assignments after registering for the conference. Delegates should read the theme and roundtable papers provided on the SCUSA website and come prepared to discuss the key issues in their policy or regional area.

**Q:** What is the dress code?

**A:** Delegates should bring business casual wear for daytime use and casual dinners. Weather in New York is breezy and cool in mid-fall; We recommend that you bring a warm winter coat and an umbrella.

**Q:** Can I change my conference modality (virtual/in-person)?

**A:** Due to the limited number of slots for in-person SCUSA 73, we are unable to change your table once selected.