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## What is SCUSA?

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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 125 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.

### ➤ Venue for 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 be hosted by cadets in the barracks and dine in the cadet mess hall.

### ➤ 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 particular region or topic.

### ➤ Past Distinguished Guest Speakers:

- Secretary Henry Kissinger
- Secretary Madeleine Albright
- Ambassador (later President) George H.W. Bush
- Ambassador Susan Rice
- His Excellency Boutros Boutros-Ghali

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## Reflections on SCUSA 71

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"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 offered a unique opportunity to create friendships and strengthen civil-military ties between delegates and cadets. Delegates were able to examine many complex issues facing our nation, and discuss them with vigor and civility while considering concrete solutions."

- Johnathan Muraski, SCUSA 70 Commander



General Questions:

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# THE 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON U.S. AFFAIRS

WEST POINT, NEW YORK  
30 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER 2019



Advancing the National  
Interest: The Intersection  
of Domestic Politics and  
American Foreign Policy

The USMA Class of '71

The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation



THE  
OLMSTED  
FOUNDATION

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## SCUSA71 Roundtable Topics

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### Functional

- Trade, Jobs and Globalization
- The Weaponization of Information
- Foreign Policy in an Era of Domestic Political Polarization
- Security in Cyberspace
- Alliances and Multilateral Organizations
- Migration and Refugees
- Climate Change

### Regional

- Europe
- Western Hemisphere
- Middle East and North Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South and Central Asia
- Indo-Pacific
- China
- Russia



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## SCUSA Sites

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## Website

<https://westpoint.edu/academics/academic-departments/social-sciences/conferences/student-conference-on-us-affairs>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SCUSAwP>



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/89592479@N07/>

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## How does SCUSA work?

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### Key Conference Events

#### ➤ October 30

Arrival, registration, welcome, and opening senior panel discussion of the conference theme.

#### ➤ October 31

Roundtable sessions, banquet, and keynote address.

#### ➤ November 1

Roundtable sessions, weapons and equipment interactive display, working roundtable dinner, and student delegate mixer.

#### ➤ November 2

Closing report session and presentation of policy recommendations to a plenary meeting. 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.**

SCUSA71's theme is "Advancing the National Interest: The Intersection of Domestic Politics and American Foreign Policy." The United States and its democratic allies and partners face important challenges to effective governance, as turbulent domestic politics constrain the ability of national leaders to develop effective policies—at home and abroad. While globalization has improved the world's overall standard of living, the benefits have been uneven. Even within developed countries, some citizens have had their economic status threatened by international market forces, while others have come to perceive threats to valued aspects of their identity. The resulting political divisions have made it more difficult for elected policy makers to make the compromises essential to effective governance. To succeed in this environment, American policy makers will have to recognize and account for new political, economic, and social dynamics as they define and pursue the national interest.

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## Important Questions

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### **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 & when is payment due?**

**A:** The registration fee is **\$180 (\$200 after October 1<sup>st</sup>)**. Payment can be made by credit card. SCUSA points of contact will receive a link for the registration/payment site in late August. All payments must be made by **October 22**.

### **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 Train Station**. Delegates may also drive to West Point.

### **Q: Where will I stay?**

**A:** Delegates will be housed in the cadet barracks at West Point.

### **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. They should also bring formal attire for the banquet. Weather in New York is breezy and cool in mid-fall; a warm winter coat is recommended.