
What is SCUSA?

The United States Military Academy at West Point hosts SCUSA every fall. It is the oldest and largest conference of its type in the world, attended by approximately 200 undergraduate students from over 125 colleges and universities worldwide. The passions and experiences of SCUSA inspire many delegates to pursue a career in public service. Equally important, SCUSA is a four-day conference that provides a solid foundation for building strong civil-military relationships.

➤ A 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 U.S. government.

➤ A 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 of 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 policy experts from academia and government to facilitate roundtable discussions and guide delegates in developing a series of policy recommendations for their particular region or topic.

➤ Distinguished guest speakers have included:

- Secretary Henry Kissinger
- Secretary Madeleine Albright
- Ambassador (later President) George H.W. Bush
- Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller
- His Excellency Boutros Boutros-Ghali

Reflections on SCUSA 67

“One of the best aspects of this conference is its ability to bring together a diverse group of exceptional students, each with unique perspectives and backgrounds, to discuss and ‘solve’ real global issues. It presents a terrific opportunity for our nation's future military and civilian leaders to interact, socialize, and learn from one another.”

- Genna Gibbons, SCUSA 67 Commander, USMA

“Our policy recommendations, though ambitious, aimed to increase the accessibility of the American Dream to all through the creation of new federal agencies, school programs and scholarships, and the implementation of reforms to the campaign system. As a Political Science and Human Rights major, I was excited to discuss ideas that I had been introduced to in my classes on a wider scale.”

- Iva Petkova, University of Connecticut

“SCUSA 67 was perhaps one of my greatest college experiences thus far.... I am confident that it will not be the last time I see many of the delegates and cadets that I bonded with, for we all had similar interests and goals.”

- Ryan Hackett, Syracuse University



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THE 68TH ANNUAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON U.S. AFFAIRS

**WEST POINT, NEW YORK
9 – 12 NOVEMBER 2016**



DEMOCRACY & DEMOCRATIZATION: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Made possible by:

**The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation
The USMA Class of '71**



SCUSA 68 Roundtable Topics

Topical:

- Economic Development
- Technology
- Security
- Political Radicalism
- Ethno-Religious Conflict
- Democracy Promotion
- Democracy: Not the Only Game in Town

Regional:

- U.S. & Canada
- Latin America
- Europe
- Russia & Post-Soviet Space
- Middle East
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- East Asia
- Iran, its Neighbors, and the U.S.



SCUSA Sites

Website

<http://www.usma.edu/scusa/SitePages/Home.aspx>



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



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



<https://twitter.com/scusawp>

How does SCUSA work?

• Key Conference Events:

➤ November 9th–

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

➤ November 10th–

Roundtable sessions, banquet, and keynote address.

➤ November 11th–

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

➤ November 12th–

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

• Prior to the SCUSA conference, delegates should prepare to discuss their roundtable topic in light of the conference theme.

This year SCUSA's theme, which is applied to each roundtable, is *"Democracy & Democratization: Challenges & Opportunities."* Beginning the day after the U.S. presidential election, the conference invites participants to consider the challenges and opportunities facing the United States as it responds to key questions concerning the health and future of democracy. Among the questions to be explored are: what are the political, normative, and material limits to promoting democracy in the world? Does democracy confront greater challenges in some countries and regions? How does political radicalism in its many forms challenge democracy? What does the survival of authoritarian and hybrid regimes indicate about the long-term prospects for democracy internationally? Can democracy successfully navigate ethno-religious conflict?

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 & when is payment due?

A: The registration fee is **\$180**. Checks must be made to payable to **"U.S. Treasury"** and mailed to **Lukas Berg, Building 607, West Point, NY 10996**. All checks must be received by **November 2nd**. Delegates should contact their academic advisors regarding grants that their schools may provide.

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

Q: Where will I stay?

A: Those **under 27 years old** will be housed in the cadet barracks at West Point. Unfortunately, legal restrictions prevent us from housing students who are 27 or older on campus, so we kindly ask universities to **send students 26 years old or younger**.

Q: What if I am 27 years old or older?

A: You must reserve a room at the IHG 5 Star Hotel. West Point **will not** cover the cost of off-campus lodging. <http://www.ihg.com/armyhotels/hotels/us/en/west-point/zywpa/hoteldetail>

Q: How do I prepare for SCUSA?

A: After registering for the conference, delegates will be informed of their roundtable assignments. 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.