Capital Semester Program
FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
Capital Semester Experience

The Capital Semester Program at George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government provides undergraduate students from across the country and around the world with an invaluable up-close view of Washington, D.C. Students will learn how political decisions are made, how power is wielded, and how government is run — because students will be right in the center of the process.
A Capital Investment in Your Future:

- Engage with nationally recognized experts
- Make connections with faculty, guest lecturers, and senior staff at your internship
- Build your resume with an impressive internship in an organization of interest to you
- Earn credits toward your undergraduate degree
- Build friendships for life
- Learn how power is wielded and how influence is achieved

By the Numbers:

- 600+ Government offices and organizations in our internship database
- 118+ Alumni who have obtained positions working on Capitol Hill
- 1,000+ Years of combined experience of faculty and guest lecturers
- 8 Minutes from campus to downtown Washington, D.C.
- 80+ Colleges and universities have sent their students to this program, including USC, Princeton, Michigan, UNC, and Penn State
PROGRAM CURRICULUM & INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

As a student in the Capital Semester Program, you will earn a minimum of 6 academic credits for the completion of two classes, plus your internship experience. Students are eligible to add additional credit hours. The program is offered three times a year during the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

With the Schar School’s unparalleled access in the Washington, D.C. metro area, the Capital Semester Program is able to connect students with prestigious internships relevant to their interests. The program manages a database of 600+ of some of the most sought-after internships in the Executive Branch, the news media, national political and advocacy organizations, and in the U.S. Congress. No matter your interests, we will provide a unique opportunity for you to gain an edge in the competitive job market with a resume-boosting experience.

RECENT STUDENT INTERNSHIPS COORDINATED BY THE PROGRAM HAVE INCLUDED:

- American Foreign Policy Council
- Center for American Progress
- CNN
- Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- EMILY’S List
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Executive Office of the President
- FleishmanHillard
- Lake Research Partners
- Motion Picture Association of America
- National Association of Manufacturers
- NBC’s “Meet the Press”
- Republican National Committee
- Speaker of the U.S. House Nancy Pelosi (CA)
- U.S. House Democrat Caucus Chair Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (NY)
- U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
- U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY)
- U.S. Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (NY)
- U.S. Senator Rand Paul (KY)
I never imagined that I would make a life-altering decision by forgoing a summer on the beach to spend a summer in D.C., and it was worth it. Not only did this program open up my eyes to the inner workings of Washington, but it also exposed me to a whole different world that I did not know existed and a whole new profession. Spending that summer in D.C. launched my political career and I am so glad I said yes to a new challenge.

— EMILY CRERAND
PROGRAM GRADUATE
CHIEF OF STAFF,
REP. HARLEY ROUDA (CA)
FACULTY & LECTURERS

Throughout the program, you will enhance your studies with a close-up view of government, politics, and advocacy in action led by faculty who bring nationally recognized practical experience to the table. The faculty represent bipartisan perspectives and diverse views. Our more than 50 lecturers are from the highest levels of Congress, the Executive Branch, association and nonprofit organizations, and influential positions in politics and policy.

EACH FACULTY MEMBER EMBODIES THE HALLMARK OF THE PROGRAM: EXCELLENCE. HERE IS JUST A SAMPLING FROM THEIR RESUMES:

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth (IL)
United States Senator

The Honorable James McGovern (MA)
United States Representative

The Honorable Philip English (PA)
United States Representative

Stephanie Schriock
President, EMILY’s List

Pam Traxel
Senior Vice President
Cancer Action Network
American Cancer Society

Amanda Brown Lierman
Political and Organizing Director
Democratic National Committee

Martha McKenna
McKenna Media
Former Political Director
Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee

Meredith Glacken
Gov. Larry Hogan Re-election Committee
Maryland Republican Party

Alan Yamamoto
Chief of Staff
U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono (HI)

Paul Curcio
Partner, Stevens, Reed, Curcio and Potholm
Former Director of Advertising Services
and Political Director, The National Republican
Senatorial Committee

Ed Goeas & B.J. Martino
Partners, The Tarrance Group
Highly Respected and Successful Republican
Strategic Research and Polling Firm

W. Eric Dell
Senior Vice President, External Affairs
National Automatic Merchandising Association

Mildred Webber
Former Coalitions Director
National Republican Congressional Committee

Christina Iskandar
Program Director for Knowledge Management
Counties Futures Lab
National Association of Counties
Edward Silverman
EVP & Director, Government Relations
TD Bank USA
Former Staff Director, United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

Wilma Goldstein
Former Director
Office of Women's Business Ownership
U.S. Small Business Administration
( George W. Bush Administration)

Neil Campbell
Chief of Staff
Office of United States Senator Jack Reed (RI)

Mike Henry
Chief of Staff
Office of United States Senator Tim Kaine (VA)

Emily Porter
Partner, The Nickels Group
Former Health Policy Assistant to U.S. Speaker of the House of Representatives, The Honorable John Boehner (OH)

Kalina Bakalov Thompson
Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director
Office of Sen. Tammy Duckworth

David Wasserman
U.S. House Editor
The Cook Political Report

Christopher Roberts
Video Yield Manager
The Washington Post

Daniel Lippman
POLITICO's Playbook
Politico

Carlyle Gregory
President
The Carlyle Gregory Company
Special Assistant for Political Affairs under President Ronald Reagan

Kayla McKeon
Manager, Grass Roots Advocacy
National Downs Syndrome Society

Darrel Thompson
Principal, theGROUP
Former Deputy Chief of Staff for Intergovernmental & External Affairs to Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV)

David Rehr
Former President & CEO
National Association of Broadcasters

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF FACULTY AND GUEST LECTURERS, VISIT: SCHAR.GMU.EDU/CSP
Capital Semester Program
Schar School of Policy and Government
George Mason University
3351 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA  22201
Phone: 703-993-8666

Program Housing available

For more information, visit:
SCHAR.GMU.EDU/CSP