

Why Political Science?

Political institutions and processes are closely connected to a society's ability to function well. Mason's **Master of Arts in Political Science** will deepen your understanding of political processes at all levels of government, improve your research skills, and provide you with a foundation in international relations, comparative politics, or American politics. Graduates are prepared to work in nonprofits and consulting firms, teach at home or abroad, serve in government and politics, or continue their studies in doctoral programs.

Program Director – Dr. Mariely Lopez-Santana

A complete list of Schar School faculty and their CVs can be found at <http://schar.gmu.edu/faculty>.

Curriculum Requirements

The Political Science master's program requires **36 credit hours** of coursework.

Required Political Science Core Courses (18 credits)

- **GOVT 510** American Government and Politics: Examines institutions and processes of American government, including separate institutions of power in national government, theory and practice of federal system, role of interest groups and political parties, and effects of media and public opinion on electoral behavior and policy making. Seminar examining normative and empirical research.
- **GOVT 520** Political Theory: Analyzes selected major works of ancient, modern, or contemporary political theory that illuminate basic problems and questions for people engaged in political or civic life. Examines justice, liberty, equality, autonomy, rights, obligation, participation, and nature of politics.
- **GOVT 530** Comparative Politics: Examines fundamental issues in comparative politics and provides broad coverage of the central themes under study. Designed to help students think theoretically and critically about the study of comparative politics, its scientific objectives, and its epistemological assumptions.
- **GOVT 540** International Relations: Focuses on changing the structure of international politics, post-Cold War security issues, effects of globalized economy and information technology revolution, enhanced role of global corporations and nongovernmental organizations, and rise of non-security issues in emerging international agenda.
- **GOVT 500** The Scientific Method and Research Design: Grounds students in the principles of the scientific method as the framework for investigating all research questions in political science, whether qualitative or quantitative in character (or both).
- **POGO 511** Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government: Introduces fundamental statistical analysis for analyzing policy, government, and other social science data. Focuses on problem definition, problem solving, and how to communicate results to general audience under conditions of uncertainty in public sector. Provides the core foundation for advanced graduate work in data analytics using contemporary statistical software packages.

Elective, Concentration, and Specialization Coursework (15 credits)

Students will complete elective courses and declare either a concentration or one of three specializations within the program. The options are:

- Concentration: International Security
- Specialization: Comparative Politics
- Specialization: American Government and Politics
- Specialization: International Relations

Final Project or Thesis (3 credits)

Students must demonstrate the ability to conduct original, independent research by completing a research project or thesis.

Admissions Information

For admission consideration to the Political Science master's program, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited university or college.

Application Deadlines	FALL TERM	SPRING TERM
Domestic Students	May 1	December 1
International Students*	May 1	November 1
For Priority Scholarship Consideration	February 1	December 1

*For admission purposes, please adhere to the International Student Deadlines if you have completed your undergraduate and/or graduate degree outside of the United States.

Application Requirements

Please visit <https://schar.gmu.edu/how-to-apply> for more information.

- Graduate Application and application fee.** The Graduate Application can be completed online at: <https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now>
- A 750-1000 word **written statement** of the applicant's goals for and interest in the program
- A current **resume**
- Unofficial transcript(s)** from all university work
Applicants presenting international credentials must provide transcripts, degree certificates or diplomas, and certified translations of the documents into English (if applicable)
- Two letters of recommendation**
At least one letter of recommendation should be from an academic resource
- Valid GRE scores** (only valid for five years from test date)
- Writing sample** (optional but strongly recommended)

Additional criteria for International Applicants:

- TOEFL/IELTS scores** (required for international applicants)
Minimum required TOEFL scores: 88 with a 20 in each of the four subsections **OR**
Minimum required IELTS score: 6.5 total

Financial Aid

To apply for federal assistance, applicants are required to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form which can be accessed online at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. For other questions regarding federal assistance, please visit the Office of Student Financial Aid at: <http://financialaid.gmu.edu/>.

Tuition and Fees for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

In-State Total: \$670.75/credit hour
Out-of-State Total: \$1,558.75/credit hour

*2018-19 Academic Year

Political Science, MA (PoliSci) Graduates:

