Undergraduate Programs
WELCOME TO THE SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT

The nature of public policy and government in the 21st century is rapidly evolving.

Changing demographics, advances in technology, fiscal constraints at every level of government, a global economy, and the rise of public-private partnerships are just some of the factors contributing to this shifting landscape. As the needs of citizens, and the ability of governments to meet those needs, become more complex, the current and next-generation of leaders must be more creative and strategic in finding solutions to the challenges that communities face domestically and abroad.

The Schar School of Policy and Government is poised at the forefront of innovation and education, helping shape the policy leaders of tomorrow.

Mark J. Rozell
Dean, Schar School of Policy and Government
Ruth D. and John T. Hazel Chair in Public Policy
Join the Next Generation of Leaders and Scholars

As a professional, interdisciplinary school that melds theory with practice, the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University prepares undergraduate and graduate students to be leaders and managers who solve problems and advance the public good in all sectors and levels of government.

When you graduate from the Schar School of Policy and Government, you will be poised to apply the knowledge and skills gained in our classrooms at some of the most dynamic companies, consulting firms, nonprofits, multinational organizations, and government agencies in Washington, D.C. and around the world.

Our Undergraduate Programs

The Schar School is home to more than 800 undergraduate students majoring in Government and International Politics and Public Administration. Undergraduate courses are offered on Mason’s Fairfax campus, allowing students to take courses from multiple colleges and schools without disrupting their schedules. Students also have full access to speaker events and activities hosted on the Schar School’s Arlington campus.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Government and International Politics

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

The Bachelor of Arts in Government and International Politics degree program is ideal for students who are interested in a career path in political analysis, international relations, public service, law, campaigns, or research. As a student in the program, you will learn to critically examine political issues, prominent actors, and processes in government, foreign policy, and international affairs. As governments and politics around the world respond to the rapid advancement of technology, this degree program equips students to face new challenges boldly and effectively.

Degree Requirements: 43 credits, including five core courses, eight field study courses, and a senior seminar.

OPTIONAL CONCENTRATIONS AVAILABLE IN:
- AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES
- COMPARATIVE POLITICS
- INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
- LAW, PHILOSOPHY, AND GOVERNANCE
- POLITICAL ANALYSIS
- POLITICAL BEHAVIOR AND IDENTITY POLITICS
- PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
Public Administration

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)**

If you dream of a career advancing the public good through nonprofit work or service in federal, state, or local government, then the Bachelor of Science in Public Administration degree program could be the right fit for you. As a student in the program, you will gain the analytical and decision-making skills to design, manage, and implement policies and programs that address complex challenges facing communities locally and around the world. Majors graduate with a firm understanding of what it means to effectively manage a public or nonprofit organization and with the budgetary, statistical, and information systems skills that are in such high demand in government positions.

**Degree Requirements:** 52 credits, including eight core courses, eight field study courses, and a senior seminar.

**OPTIONAL CONCENTRATIONS AVAILABLE IN:**
- ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
- ECONOMIC POLICY ANALYSIS
- INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
- NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT
- PUBLIC POLICY
- US GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

MINORS AND JOINT PROGRAMS

**Minors**

In addition to an undergraduate major and its optional concentrations, students have the opportunity to choose a minor. While not required, minors can help you demonstrate expertise and particular focus within your studies. The Schar School offers the following minors:

- AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
- GLOBAL SYSTEMS
- INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES
- INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
- LEGAL STUDIES
- POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
- PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
- URBAN AND SUBURBAN STUDIES

Our faculty are engaged with foreign policy at the highest levels, and this offers students unique career opportunities at the State Department, with USAID, national security and intelligence agencies, and leading global nonprofits.

— PETER MANDAVILLE, SCHAR SCHOOL PROFESSOR AND FORMER SENIOR ADVISOR TO TWO U.S. SECRETARIES OF STATE

Concentration in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

The Department of Philosophy, Department of Economics, and the Schar School of Policy and Government jointly offer a concentration in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE). The PPE concentration provides students with the multidisciplinary training needed to tackle today’s most complex social problems. The program is a springboard to careers in public service, law, finance, business, journalism, and the academy. PPE students enjoy close contact with prestigious faculty, unique international partnerships, and special extra-curricular events.

BACHELOR’S / ACCELERATED MASTER’S PROGRAMS

Think a master’s degree could be in your future? Earn your master’s degree in a shorter period of time and at a lower total cost by pursuing one of the Schar School’s accelerated master’s degree programs. High-achieving undergraduate students at George Mason University are eligible to apply.

Upon admission to the accelerated master’s program, graduate courses taken while completing your bachelor’s degree are offered at the undergraduate tuition rate. Additionally, you save in total tuition costs due to the accelerated track. Finally, as this program is only offered to Mason undergraduate students, the Office of Admissions waives the graduate application fee.

The following Schar School master’s degree programs are available as part of the accelerated master’s program:

- MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIODEFENSE
- MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE AND POLICY
- MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
- MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
- MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)
- MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY (MPP)
A Faculty of Thought Leaders

Our faculty’s passion for public service and policymaking matches that of our students. We have distinguished and dedicated faculty from a wide range of disciplines. They are world-class academic scholars, public intellectuals who have shaped policy debate, as well as experienced professionals who specialize in the scholarship of practice. They all seek to create new knowledge, connect learning with practice, make a difference in the world, and teach and mentor the next generation of leaders and scholars.

While the Schar School itself is large, the School remains committed to quality teaching and small classes. As a result, students often form mentoring relationships with their professors that help them succeed in class, understand complex policy issues, conduct research that addresses public problems, and excel throughout their careers. There are more than 80 full-time faculty members, as well as hundreds of adjunct professors who bring real-world experience to the classroom.

With our location in the national capital region, we have unprecedented access to renowned speakers and faculty experts. From heads of state and governors to former directors of central intelligence and political correspondents, our distinguished faculty members bring a wealth of experience and perspectives to our community.

Practitioners in the Classroom

Ret. General Michael V. Hayden, former director of the CIA and NSA, is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Schar School, and in 2017 founded the Schar School’s Michael V. Hayden Center for Intelligence, Policy, and International Security. The Center provides for the full examination of intelligence and its interplay with U.S. national security.

Former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe joined the Schar School in 2018 as a Distinguished Visiting Professor. McAuliffe, who has had an illustrious career in government, politics, and business, guest lectures in Schar School undergraduate and graduate classes on national and international affairs, with a primary focus on how workers can succeed in the increasingly global economy.

The 2017 Virginia gubernatorial candidates squared off in a debate hosted by the Schar School, with Dean Mark J. Rozell serving on the panel.

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Michael V. Hayden sits down with Showtime’s Homeland TV show creators and cast to talk about espionage in pop culture at a Schar School event.

Terry McAuliffe guest lectures for professor Justin Gest’s public policy class on the topic of “Money in Politics.”
Schar School Senior Lands a Book Deal

Government and International Politics major Josephine Neulen began to study the rise of populism and right-wing extremism in Europe as part of the Schar School’s Undergraduate Research Assistant Program (URAP). After presenting at the Midwest Political Science Association annual conference, Josephine and her URAP mentor, professor Delton Daigle, received a contract from publishing house Palgrave Macmillan to turn her research into a book for publication. Learn more about URAP by visiting SCHAR.GMU.EDU/URAP.

MASON RECEIVES MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR AWARD FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

George Mason University has been selected by the Department of Homeland Security to lead its Center of Excellence in Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis.

Research of Consequence

George Mason University is ranked by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as one of the best research institutions in the country, earning a designation in the “Highest Research Activity” (R1) category. Today, more than $100 million in research grants and contracts have been awarded to faculty, students, and staff.

With this university-wide commitment to research of consequence, the Schar School is truly part of policy in action, working to address key issues that impact the lives of citizens and nations.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Program

You may gain hands-on experience with social science research through the Schar School’s Undergraduate Research Assistant Program (URAP), which pairs students with faculty members who share common research interests and can serve as mentors. A sampling of recent projects include:

- Polarization and Populism in Europe
- Attempting to Understand Espionage, Spies, and Politics through Literature and Popular Culture
- Contextualizing Islam in Europe and North America
- Designing International Security Simulations
- The Legacy of Conflict in Latin America: Truth Commissions, Trials, and Reparations for Victims of Human Rights Violations
- The Erosion of U.S. Soft Power
- Life Histories of Immigrants from El Salvador and Guatemala
**Global Politics Fellows Program**

Each semester, Schar School students may apply for the Global Politics Fellows program — a 15-credit academic program for a small cohort of 20-30 students who are passionate about global issues facing the world today. As part of the program, students intern three days a week with local and federal government offices, foreign embassies, nonprofit organizations, NGOs, and think tanks. Recent Fellows internships include:

- C-SPAN
- Department of Justice
- Embassy of Jordan
- Foreign Policy Initiative
- Human Rights Watch
- Institute of World Politics
- Middle East Institute
- USAID
- Washington Office on Latin America
- Woodrow Wilson International Center

**Policy in Action**

**We Mind the GAP**

With the Gender and Policy (GAP) initiative, Schar School students, faculty, and staff tackle topics related to the role of gender in public policy, including women’s representation in elective politics and public authority, public affairs education, women’s health and wellbeing, gender-based violence, and gender disparities in areas such as immigration.

**Washington Post-Schar School Polls**

Schar School professors and Washington Post editors work together to create timely and important national and regional polls that generate international headlines. The data derived from the polls reveals crucial information as to what is resonating with American voters on a broad range of political and public policy issues. Schar School students benefit from learning how polls are created and conducted as well as having access to the experts and the raw data for their own studies.

**Middle East and Islamic Studies**

Professor Bassam S. Haddad is director of this comprehensive interdisciplinary program that goes beyond security studies and strives to understand historical and contemporary issues of the Middle East region. Professor Peter Mandaville’s research on Islam and international relations has been used by the White House and the State Department among other agencies for its thoughtful insights to the realities of modern Islam in a globalized world.

**Taking on the World’s Most Dangerous Problems**

In a dangerous world, the Schar School’s Terrorism, Transnational Crime, and Corruption Center tackles the most compelling issues facing governments and their citizens around the globe—human organ trafficking, wildlife poaching, modern slavery, illicit trade, cyber and organized crime, the opioid epidemic, and others. TraCCC, directed and founded by professor Louise Shelley, is the first center of its kind in the U.S. to teach, research, train, and help formulate policy on the world’s most dangerous problems.
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SCHAR.GMU.EDU

REVISED IN SEPTEMBER 2018