Overall Description:
The Department of Public and International Affairs offers the Master of Arts in Political Science. The Master of Arts in Political Science encompasses American Politics, International Relations and Comparative Politics. The degree prepares students for advanced work in political science, for teaching and research, for careers in government and politics, and for work in domestic and international non-governmental organizations.

Students may specialize in American Government and Politics, International Relations, or Comparative Politics. Students may also complement these specializations with a concentration in international security. Interdisciplinary opportunities allow students to take up to 9 credits in related fields such as history or public policy.

Degree Requirements:
Students are required to complete 36 hours of courses including 12 hours of core courses and 24 hours of specialized courses within the Department of Public and International Affairs and in other departments.

Students will complete 12 hours of core courses in American Government and Politics (GOVT 510), Political Theory (GOVT 520), Comparative Politics (GOVT 530), International Relations (GOVT 540).

Students will complete 9 to 15 credits in one of three specializations: American Government and Politics, International Relations, or Comparative Politics. These specializations will include 6 credits of seminars and 3-9 credits of electives.

A specialization in American Government and Politics requires 6 hours of field seminars. To fulfill this requirement, students may choose from 2 of the following 4 seminars: GOVT 603 Seminar in the Courts and Constitutional Law, GOVT 604 Seminar in Congress and Legislative Behavior, GOVT 605 Seminar on the Presidency, and GOVT 706 Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations. Students will complement these required 6 hours of field seminars with 3-9 hours of electives.

A specialization in Comparative Politics requires 6 hours of field seminars: GOVT 631 Seminar in Comparative Politics and Institutions and GOVT 731 Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics. Students will complement these required 6 hours of field seminars with 3-9 hours of electives.

A specialization in International Relations requires 6 hours of field seminars. To fulfill this requirement, students may select 2 of the following 4 seminars: GOVT 641 Seminar in Global Systems, GOVT 741 Advanced Seminar in International Relations, GOVT 743 International Political Economy, and GOVT 745 International
Security. Students will complement these required 6 hours of field seminars with 3-9 hours of electives.

A concentration in International Security requires 6 hours of field seminars. To fulfill this requirement, students must take GOVT 745 International Security and may choose 1 seminar from the following courses: GOVT 640, GOVT 641, GOVT 741, GOVT 843, BIOD 621, BIOD 622, BIOD 705, BIOD 706, BIOD 709, BIOD 722, BIOD 725, BIOD 760. Students will complement these required 6 hours of field seminars with 3-9 hours of electives.

All Masters students are required to complete 6 hours of methodology course work. These courses are: GOVT 500 Research Methods and GOVT 511 Problem Solving and Data Analysis I. Students are required to pass a statistics screening exam prior to registering for GOVT 511.

Students may link 3 credits of GOVT 798 Research Project or 6 credits of GOVT 799 Thesis to an advanced specialty course to produce a final research project. A thesis director along with two other committee members read and approve the thesis. Arrangements for any of these options should be made with the student’s advisor.

Students may complete the balance of the 36 credits required for the Master of Arts in Political Science through additional Political Science courses. Students may also select up to nine hours of course work from other departments. These courses should complement the student’s specialization and should reflect the ideas, institutions or processes of contemporary governance. All selected courses must be approved in an education plan that the student designs in consultation with her or his advisor. Students who wish to begin or alter their career in government and politics are encouraged to take a 3-credit internship in their area of interest. Internships can be arranged through the Department of Public and International Affairs.
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FACULTY

ALAN ABRAMSON, PhD Yale, Non-profit organizations, foundations, federal budget
PETER BALINT, PhD University of Maryland; Environmental policy
LEHN BENJAMIN, PhD Cornell  Non-profit organization, Evaluation research
WALT BORGE, PhD University of Texas, Dallas, Political Science, methods, voter choice in general elections and referendums, political communication
JIM BURROUGHS, JD College of William and Mary; Administrative and regulatory law
JO-MARIE BURT, PhD Columbia University; Comparative politics, Latin America
GERALD BUSHEE, PhD University of Rochester; Statistical analysis, research methods
ASHAN BUTT, PhD University of Chicago, IR, ethno-nationalist secessionism, int’l security, external threats to the nation state
CLAUDIO CIOFFI-REVILLA, PhD University of Florence; PhD State University of New York; Director Center of the Study of Social Complexity
JAMES CONANT, PhD University of Wisconsin, Madison; Public management, public policy, state government
TIMOTHY CONLAN, PhD Harvard University; Federalism, intergovernmental relations, politics of policy making, Congress. Served as Assistant Staff Director of the Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations.
DELTON DAIQUE, PhD Ohio State University; American political science, political research methodology
DANIEL DRUCKMAN, PhD Northwestern Univ., Int’l negotiation, nationalism, political psychology, research methodology
ROBERT DUDLEY, PhD Northern Illinois University; Judicial behavior, decision-making, legal processes and public policy
COLIN DUECK, PhD Princeton University, US Foreign Policy, International Relations, American Defense Policy and International Security
DAVID ERICSON, PhD University of Chicago; American political development, political theory
SONIA BEN OUGHRAM GORMLEY, PhD School of Advanced Social Sciences, Paris, France. Terrorism and WMD proliferation in the FSU, BW Threats, Biosecurity and Biosafety.
BASSAM HADDAD, PhD Georgetown University, Comparative Politics, political theory, Middle East politics
FRANCES HARBOUR, PhD Columbia University; International security issues, ethics and public policy, chemical and biological weaponry
CHARLES HAUSS, PhD University of Michigan; comparative politics, international relations, and peace studies
HUGH HECLO, PhD Yale University, Robinson Professor; Comparative public policy, the presidency, political process
MARK KATZ, PhD Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Post-Cold war international relations, international relations and domestic politics of the former Soviet Union

GREGORY KOBLENTZ, PhD Massachusetts Institute of Technology, International Security, biological warfare, terrorism

PETER MANDAVILLE, PhD University of Kent at Canterbury; International relations, Islamic world

MICHAEL MCDONALD, PhD University of California, San Diego; Research methods, public opinion and political behavior, political science. He has a postdoctoral fellowship at the Harvard-MIT Data Center.

HAZEL MCFERSON, PhD Brandeis University; African political and social developments, ethnic and racial pluralism

ERIC MCGLINCHEY, PhD Princeton University; Central Asian politics, Soviet and Post-Soviet politics and government.

ROBERT MCGRATH, PhD University of Iowa; American institutions, interbranch politics, American state politics, comparative administrative politics, public policy, judicial politics and decision making, and political methodology

CHAR MILLER, PhD Johns Hopkins; Political theory, public law, political culture

HUNG NGUYEN, PhD University of Virginia; Asian studies, Vietnamese-U.S. relations, Vietnamese refugees

JOHN PADEN, PhD Harvard University; Robinson Professor; Comparative government and public policy, African area studies, theories of the state

PAUL POSNER, PhD Columbia University; Political Science, public policy process, intergovernmental management, tax policy

PRISCILLA REGAN, PhD Cornell University; Information technologies, impact on civil liberties, comparative telecommunications policy

SUZANNE ROBBINS, PhD State University of New York; American Politics, Interest Groups

JOHN SACCO, PhD Penn State University; Information management, budgeting, accounting, policy analysis

MARIELY LOPEZ-SANTANA, PhD University of Michigan; Europeanization, comparative welfare states, comparative federalism compliance.

CLAIRE SNYDER, PhD Rutgers University; MAIS Director, Political theory, feminist theory, women in politics

HUGH SOCKETT, PhD University of London; Citizenship education, urban studies, teacher professionalism

STEFAN TOEPLER, PhD Free University of Berlin; Nonprofit management

TONI-MICHELLE TRAVIS, PhD University of Chicago; Race and gender issues in political participation, public administration, urban politics

JENNIFER VICTOR, PhD Washington University in St. Louis, American Politics, Formal Theory and Methodology
MING WAN, PhD Harvard University; International political economy, Sino-Japanese relations, Asian Pacific region

DAVID WILSFORD, PhD University of California, San Diego; comparative health policy

Faculty Bios are available for review on: http://pia.gmu.edu
Guidelines for GOVT 796 Directed Readings and Research (1-3 credits) – GOVT 796 may be taken more than once provided that the topic of readings and research is different.

The deadline for registering for GOVT 796 is the same day as the last day to add classes.

The process for registering in GOVT 796 is as follows:

There are 2 forms that are required, the GOVT 796 contract and the Individualized Section form. Both forms can be found on our website (politicalscience.gmu.edu under the Masters Students section). There is also a copy of the forms at the back of this handbook.

1) Complete the GOVT 796 contract and obtain your advisor’s signature on the contract.
2) Complete the Individualized Section form and request the Department Chair sign the form. The Chair will ask to see the GOVT 796 contract prior to signing the form. Deliver the signed individualized section form to the registrar’s office.
3) Place a copy of the GOVT 796 contract and the individualized section form in the Graduate Coordinator’s mail box. A copy of the forms will be added to your student file.

Guidelines for Project Papers (GOVT 798) and MA Theses (GOVT 799)

The MA in Political Science offers two options for the final independent research needed to complete the degree. Alternatively the student may take a 3 credit independent Research Project course, Political Science Research Project 798, as developed with the student’s project director. Normally 798 will follow or accompany an advanced seminar and extend the research project in that seminar. Instead of the 3 credit GOVT 798 project, students may complete an MA Thesis of 6 credits (Thesis Guidance, GOVT 799). The 6 credit GOVT 799 option requires the approval of a committee composed of the thesis director and two additional faculty.

Project Paper – Govt. 798

The goal of GOVT 798 is to produce original research comparable in quality to a professional conference paper. Depending on the nature of the research, most project papers will be approximately 35-50 pages in length. As the capstone project of the graduate program, conducted in lieu of a formal Masters thesis, students are expected to bear the responsibility for identifying an appropriate faculty advisor, developing a feasible research question and research plan, meeting project deadlines and producing high quality independent research. Faculty advisors are expected to provide mentoring and guidance, but ultimate responsibility for the GOVT 798 project rests with the student.

The following timeline is advisory in nature. Some projects will require longer timeframes and periods of preparation, particularly projects involving surveys, field work, and/or needing human subjects review. Please plan accordingly.

- Semester before registering for GOVT 798: Identify faculty advisor and secure her/his agreement to supervise your 798 research project. Agree upon project description, research questions, methodology, and timeline.
- First week of classes: Obtain approval and signatures of faculty advisor and Graduate Program director on GOVT 798 contract. Obtain signature of Department Chair on Individualized Section form for GOVT 798 (contract must be attached).
- End of first week of classes: Complete registration for GOVT 798, turning in Individualized Section form to Registrar, and contract to Graduate Program Coordinator to be kept in the student’s file.
- No later than Third Week of Classes: Confer with Faculty advisor and submit Abstract and Outline of Project Paper.
- Third to 10th Week of Classes: Meet as needed (usually every 2 weeks) with faculty advisor to confer on progress of research project and research issues that arise.
- End of 10th Week of Classes: A first draft of research project submitted to faculty advisor for review.
- Last day of classes: Submission of final project to Faculty Advisor for grading; a second copy should also be submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator for retention.
Note that regardless of whether the student is undertaking a Thesis or Project, he or she must obtain the approval of his or her Thesis or Project Director for a research proposal outlining the student’s plan for researching the project or thesis before registering for 798 or 799. Registration for either 798 or 799 is accomplished with an individualized section form available in the main office of the Department of Public and International Affairs. This section form should be authorized by the Thesis or Project Director and signed by the Department Chair or Graduate Director. Normally the student will work with the Thesis or Project Director to develop an acceptable research proposal in the semester before the work is to begin. The individualized section form must be submitted to the registrar’s office before the last day to add classes of the semester the work is to be started (http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/index.html).

**Thesis Option – Govt 799**

The Thesis option is 6 credits, or 2 semesters. Please be advised that prior to registering for Govt 799 the student must obtain approval of their Thesis proposal outlining the research plan. Please do not wait until your final 2 semesters to begin this process. Meet as soon as possible with a faculty member who does research in the area you are interested in. This may be your assigned advisor, or it may be the instructor in a course that you found particularly intriguing. The faculty member can assist you with defining the topic of your thesis and suggest courses that will provide you with the background to support your research. If you start early in your graduate career, you will not find yourself in search of a faculty member to supervise your thesis at the last minute. It is important to think ahead to establish a relationship with a faculty member with whom you can work.

Consult the GMU Catalog requirements for the MA Thesis option, including format requirements for the Thesis, described at the GMU library website. http://thesis.gmu.edu. University policies for continuous registration during the thesis writing, time limits, format and submission time-table are closely observed. Please check the catalog regulations before choosing the Thesis option. Note that the student’s committee, department chair and the Dean must approve the project before registration. Normally this approval is obtained for the individualized section of 799 and sent to the Registrar’s Office the semester before the student begins the thesis work. In all cases requests for approval must be submitted before the deadline for the last day to add courses. A copy of the individualized section form and a memo stating your committee members and thesis topic must be turned in to the Graduate Coordinator by the last day to add courses.
University Graduate Policies

Graduate Council
The Graduate Council is the governing body for all graduate academic policies and procedures. The council approves all new graduate programs; authorizes all graduate course work, policies, and degrees conferred by the university; and sets minimum standards for admission to and graduation from any graduate program. These are minimum standards that all programs must meet; individual programs may set and enforce higher standards. The Office of the Provost administers university graduate policies for the Graduate Council.

Graduate Faculty
The graduate faculty consists of all tenured and tenure-track faculty members and other faculty members appointed to the graduate faculty by the provost.

Academic Programs
At the graduate level, Mason offers certificates and master's and doctoral degrees. There are also a number of combined bachelor’s and accelerated master's degree programs for academically strong undergraduates with a commitment to research. For more information, see the Registration and Attendance section of this chapter.

Full-Time Classification
Graduate students are considered full time if they are enrolled in at least 9 graduate credits per semester or hold a full-time assistantship (20 hours a week) and are enrolled in at least 6 graduate credits per semester. Graduate students who are enrolled in dissertation credits (either 998 or 999) are considered full time if they are enrolled in at least 6 credits per semester, regardless of whether they hold an assistantship. Graduate students who have completed the minimum number of credits required by their degree program, including the minimum number of credits of 998 and 999 required by the university and their degree program, are considered full time if they are registered for at least 1 credit of 999 and their advisors and department chairs certify each semester that they are working full time on the dissertation. Note that different criteria for full-time status may apply for tuition, verification, loan deferral, and financial aid. Contact Student Accounts, the Registrar’s Office, and Student Financial Aid, respectively, for more information.

Permission to Re-Enroll
Permission to re-enroll in a program must be obtained by all master’s and doctoral degree students who have failed to enroll in at least 1 credit of course work for two or more consecutive semesters at Mason. A program may allow a student to petition to graduate under any catalog in effect while the student was enrolled. The final decision rests with the unit dean or director. Forms are available from the Office of the Registrar at registrar.gmu.edu/forms.

Voluntary Resignation from Graduate Academic Program
Degree-seeking students may officially resign from their academic program with the approval of their department or program chair and their dean. The Voluntary Resignation form must be approved by the student’s program and Student Accounts, then submitted to the Registrar’s Office for notation on the transcript. Resignations after the drop period will result in grades of W on the student’s transcript for that semester, and removal from any future registered courses. Program resignation is final. Students who have been granted a resignation will not be able to register for any courses unless admitted to another degree program or nondegree status in a different program.

Academic Advising
When a student is admitted to graduate study, the student is assigned a faculty advisor by the academic program responsible for the student’s program of study. Registration for newly admitted graduate students, as well as continuing students, begins with a visit to the student’s academic advisor. There, the student can obtain information about specific courses and degree requirements and develop an individual program of study. Progress in an approved program of study is the shared responsibility of the student and the advisor. The graduate student is responsible for compliance with the policies and procedures of the college, school, or institute, and all applicable departmental requirements that govern the individual program of study. Students should consult with their advisors before registration each semester.
Transfer of Credit

Graduate credit earned prior to admission to a certificate, master’s, or doctoral program may be eligible to be transferred into the program and applied to the certificate or degree. Transfer of credit requires the approval of the program director and dean or director of the school, college, or institute. They will determine whether the credit is eligible for transfer and applicable to the specific certificate or degree program. Note that credits accepted for transfer do not compute into any Mason GPA. Limits on the number of credits that can be transferred derive from the degree requirements given below.

Credit is usually considered for transfer at the student’s request at the time of initial registration as a degree-seeking student. Students must supply official transcripts. For transcripts from outside the United States, students must supply an official transcript evaluation and an official translation for transcripts not in English if these documents were not supplied in the admission process. Credit transfer requests from students who are admitted provisionally are not considered until they have fulfilled the conditions of their admission and the provisional qualifier has been removed from their records.

To be eligible for transfer credit, the credit must be graduate credit earned at another accredited university, earned at another institution and recommended for graduate credit in the American Council on Education guidebook, or earned at Mason while in a nondegree status or enrolled through extended studies. The credit must have been earned within six years prior to first enrollment as an admitted student in the specific certificate or degree program, and a minimum grade of B (3.00) must have been earned. The course must be applicable toward a degree at the institution offering the course. Extension and in-service courses that are not intended by the institution offering the courses to be applied to a degree program are not eligible for transfer credit to Mason. The credits cannot have been previously applied toward a degree at another institution or Mason; however, up to 3 credits previously applied to a degree program at another institution may be transferred into a certificate program at Mason.

Reduction of Credit

The number of credits required by a doctoral, master of fine arts, or master’s program of more than 39 credits may be reduced on the basis of a previously earned master’s degree. Reduction of credit requires the approval of the program director and the dean or director of the school, college, or institute. They determine whether the credits are eligible for reduction of credit and applicable to the degree program and the number of credits to be reduced. Reduction of credit is limited to a maximum of 30 credits in a doctoral program, 20 in an MFA program, and 18 in the MA in psychology concentration in school psychology, and derive from the degree requirements given below.

Students requesting a reduction of credit must supply official transcripts. For transcripts from outside the United States, students must supply an official transcript evaluation and an official translation for transcripts not in English if these documents were not supplied in the admission process. Reduction-of-credit requests from students who are admitted provisionally are not considered until the students have fulfilled the conditions of their admission and had the provisional qualifier removed from their records.

Credits used in reduction of credit are not subject to time limits, and the credits must have been applied to a previous degree. All the other conditions given above for eligibility of transfer of credit apply also to reduction of credits.

Credit from Other Institutions

Students enrolled in a degree program may take graduate courses at another accredited institution and apply these credits to a master’s or doctoral degree with prior approval. Approval must be secured in writing from the director of the graduate program and the dean or director of the school, college, or institute, and submitted to Mason’s Office of the Registrar before registering at the other institution. Upon completion of the course, students must arrange for an official transcript to be submitted to Mason so that the credits may be transferred into their Mason degree program. These credits are subject to all the other conditions given above for transfer credit, including limits on numbers of credits that can be taken elsewhere. Note that credits accepted for transfer do not compute into any Mason GPA. Permission to take a course elsewhere does not exempt a graduate student from satisfying the degree requirements given below.

Enrolled, degree-seeking graduate students may be eligible to take a limited number of courses through the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area. See the University
Consortium section. Credits earned through the consortium are considered resident, not transfer, credits, and are therefore not subject to transfer of credit conditions or limitations.

**Graduate Academic Standards, Grades**

University course work is measured in terms of quantity and quality. A credit normally represents one hour per week of lecture or recitation, or not fewer than two hours per week of laboratory work, throughout a semester. The number of credits is a measure of quantity. The grade is a measure of quality. The university-wide system for grading graduate courses is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Quality Points</th>
<th>Graduate Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory/Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory/Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>Satisfactory/Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>Satisfactory/Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory/Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>Satisfactory*/Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory/Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory/Failing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Although a B- is a satisfactory grade for a course, students must maintain a 3.00 average in their degree program and present a 3.00 GPA on the courses listed on the graduation application.

**Academic Warning**

A notation of academic warning is entered on the transcript of a graduate student who receives a grade of C or F in a graduate course or while a grade of IN is in effect.

**Academic Termination**

Graduate students who are admitted provisionally may be terminated from their academic programs if they fail to meet the conditions of their admission within the time limits set at admission. Students admitted provisionally and nondegree graduate students may be terminated upon accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades in graduate courses. Provisionally admitted students who accumulate 12 credits of unsatisfactory grades in undergraduate courses will also be terminated. (For students admitted provisionally, graduate and undergraduate grades are not combined in the calculation of unsatisfactory credits leading toward termination.) Although the university will make every effort to notify students when their performance reaches the threshold for termination, each student is responsible for knowing the termination criteria for non-degree students at Mason, for knowing when their grades have met the standard, and for initiating any appeal to their dean. Students may be terminated if they fail to achieve satisfactory progress toward their degree. A letter of termination is sent by the dean or director of the school, college, or institute, and notification of academic termination is affixed to the graduate student's official record. Students who are terminated are no longer eligible to take courses in the program but may apply to another degree program or take courses in other programs through nondegree studies.

**Academic Dismissal**

A degree-seeking graduate student is dismissed after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades in graduate courses. These are minimum standards of academic performance; some programs have higher standards. Although the university will make every effort to notify students when their performance reaches the threshold for dismissal, each student is responsible for knowing the dismissal criteria for degree-seeking graduate students at Mason, for knowing when their grades have met the standard, and for initiating any appeal to their dean. A student may also be dismissed for failure to meet other program requirements such as doctoral competence exams. The notation of academic dismissal is affixed to the graduate student’s official record. A student who is dismissed may not take additional course work at Mason.
Graduate Requirements for Programs

Requirements for Master’s Degrees
Candidates must satisfy all applicable university degree requirements and all requirements established by the master’s program faculty. Individual departmental degree requirements are listed under the respective master’s programs in this catalog. Programs may impose more stringent requirements.

- **Admission.** Candidates must have been officially admitted into degree status.
- **Credit Hours.** Candidates must earn a minimum of 30 graduate credits.
- **Credit Level.** Only graduate courses may apply toward the degree.
- **Institutional Credit.** The majority of the credits applied to the degree must be earned at Mason or, in the case of programs offered through joint, cooperative, or consortial arrangements, at the participating institutions.
- **Residency.** A minimum of 18 credits must be taken in degree status, after admission to the degree program.
- **Thesis/Project Limits.** A maximum of 6 credits of master’s thesis research (799) or master’s project may be applied to the degree.
- **Quality.** Candidates must have a minimum GPA of 3.00 in course work presented on the degree application, which may include no more than 6 credits of C. (Grades of C+, C-, or D do not apply to graduate courses. The GPA calculation excludes all transfer courses and Mason nondegree studies credits not formally approved for the degree.)

Thesis Options
Requirements regarding a thesis vary with the degree program. A number of master’s programs offer both thesis and nonthesis options. The same quality of work is expected of students regardless of their chosen option. For more information, consult the section on degree requirements under each degree program.

Time Limit
Master’s degree students have six years from the time of first enrollment as a degree-seeking student to complete their degrees. Individual master’s programs may have stricter time limits, which are published in this catalog. International students attending in F-1 or J-1 status also have more restrictive time limits; contact the Office of International Programs and Services for information. Students who are given permission to re-enroll following an absence from Mason may not count the six-year time limit as beginning on the date of re-enrollment. Students who will not meet published time limits because of circumstances beyond their control may petition for an extension. Failure to meet the time limits or to secure approval of an extension request may result in termination from the program.

Master’s Thesis
When a thesis proposal has been approved by the appropriate department, the department chair sends the collegiate dean or director a copy of the thesis proposal, including the approval signatures of the master’s thesis committee members. Students may enroll in thesis research (799) at the beginning of the next semester. Students must register for a minimum of three credit hours in their first semester of 799. After that semester, students may enroll for one credit of 799 per semester and be considered full time, if the following requirement is met: the student, advisor and department chair must certify each semester that the student is working full time on the thesis. **Please note: Master’s students must maintain continuous enrollment in 799 while writing and submitting a thesis.** Graduation candidates who miss the library deadline for thesis submission, but do submit officially before the next semester begins, do not have to register for 799 in that next semester, but must stay active to graduate.

The master’s thesis committee is named by the candidate’s department chair, who designates a member of the graduate faculty from that department as the thesis committee chair. The committee is
appointed after consulting with the candidate and advisor and consists of at least three people. Two must be members of the graduate faculty from the candidate’s department, while one may come from outside the department.

The thesis committee chair is primarily responsible for directing the candidate’s research and writing activities. The student is responsible for keeping all committee members informed of the scope, plan, and progress of the research as well as the writing of the thesis.

Students selecting the thesis option should obtain a copy of Mason’s *Thesis, Dissertation, or Project Guide*, which is available at [thesis.gmu.edu](http://thesis.gmu.edu). Students may register in 799 only after their thesis proposal has been submitted and approved as prescribed in the guide. Any student not in attendance at Mason who is preparing a thesis under the active supervision of a member of the faculty or wishes to take an exam must maintain continuous registration in 799 for at least 1 credit per semester.

**Thesis Submission**

The university has a policy on the dissemination of scholarly works created by graduate students. The Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETDs) program encourages masters-level graduate students to submit an electronic copy of their thesis for broad scholarly dissemination through the Mason Archival Repository Service (MARS). Student participation in the ETDs program is strongly encouraged, but not mandatory. All students choosing to participate in this program will be required to sign the MARS Author/Contributor Permission Agreement.

On or before the thesis deadline for any semester, the student will submit a complete (signed Signature Sheet through Curriculum Vitae) 100% cotton copy of his or her thesis to the University Libraries along with a transmittal sheet. The student may also opt to submit an electronic copy of his/her thesis. These submissions can be in Word, WordPerfect, or in portable document format (PDF). Media formats (tiff, jpeg, png, wav, avi, mpeg, mov, rm, wmv, wma, etc.) for supporting materials will also be accepted. Datasets may be accepted at the discretion of the libraries. The files may be submitted on CD, DVD, or USB memory device. Please note that those students opting out of the ETDs program are required to submit two 100% cotton copies of their thesis.

For degree conferral in a particular semester, the above materials must be submitted to the library by 5 p.m. on the last Friday of classes in that semester. For specific deadlines and other information, go to [registrar.gmu.edu](http://registrar.gmu.edu).
FORMS
(forms can also be found at politicalscience.gmu.edu)
GOVT 796
Directed Reading and Research (1-3 credits)

Date ______________________________

Student Name____________________________ G# ____________________

Subject of Readings ____________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Brief Description (Include requirements, readings, papers etc.) __________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Projected Completion Date ______________________________

Student Signature _____________________________________________

Advisor Signature _____________________________________________

Original, signed form must be submitted to the Graduate Program Office – please place in the mailbox of Koback or Myers located in Robinson A201. The student should keep a copy for his/her files.
GOVT 798
Political Science Research Project (3 credits)

Date ________________________________

Student Name __________________________ G# ____________________

Title of Project Paper ____________________________________________

Thesis Statement __________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Methodologies to be Used __________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Timeline of the following benchmarks:

Abstract _________________________________________________________

Outline of Project Paper ___________________________________________

Bibliography ______________________________________________________

1st Draft _________________________________________________________

Final ____________________________________________________________

Advisor Signature ________________________________________________

Program Director ________________________________________________

Original, signed form must be submitted to the Graduate Program Office – please place in the mailbox of Amanda Myers located in Robinson A201. The student should keep a copy for his/her files.
**INDIVIDUALIZED SECTION FORM**
For Independent Study, Thesis, Internship, and Directed Reading Registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student’s ID/G Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student’s Name (Please Print Last, First, MI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>For Credits</th>
<th>Term/Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Course Title:**
Limited to 30 Characters Including Spaces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor’s Name (Last, First)</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**For Office Use Only**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>CRN</th>
<th>Initials</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Master of Political Science Degree Plan
Graduate Programs
Department of Public and International Affairs
EFFECTIVE FALL 2013

All students must meet with an advisor to complete a degree plan during the first semester of graduate study. Please return to the Graduate Programs office for your file. If your degree plan changes, please update your form with your advisor. Completion of the form is required for your student records and for graduation clearance.

NAME:

DATE ADMITTED: ___________________  ANTICIPATED GRADUATION DATE: ___________________

Specialization/Concentration – check which area you want to specialize/concentrate in:
American Government & Politics _____  Comparative Politics _____  International Relations _____  International Security _____

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Sem/Year Taken</th>
<th>Grade Earned</th>
<th>Credits Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Courses:</td>
<td>All 4 core courses are required</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 510</td>
<td>American Politics and Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 520</td>
<td>Political Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 530</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 540</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
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<td>Methods Courses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 500</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 511</td>
<td>Problem Solving &amp; Data Analysis I (prereq: passing grade on statistics screening exam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Am Politics Specialization</td>
<td>2 of the following 4 seminars:</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 603</td>
<td>Seminar in the Courts and Constitutional Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 604</td>
<td>Seminar in Congress and Legislative Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 605</td>
<td>Seminar in the American Presidency</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 706</td>
<td>Seminar in Federalism &amp; Intergovernmental Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative Politics Specialization</td>
<td>The following 2 seminars are required:</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 631</td>
<td>Seminar in Comparative Politics and Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 731</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Name</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>Sem/Year Taken</td>
<td>Grade Earned</td>
<td>Credits Earned</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 641</td>
<td>Seminar in Global Systems</td>
<td>2 of the following 4 seminars:</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 741</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar in International Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 743</td>
<td>International Political Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 745</td>
<td>International Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 640, GOVT 641, GOVT 741, GOVT 843, BIOD 621, BIOD 622, BIOD 705, BIOD 706, BIOD 709, BIOD 722, BIOD 725, BIOD 760</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 744</td>
<td>Foundations in Security Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 745</td>
<td>International Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 798</td>
<td>Research Project (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 799</td>
<td>Thesis (6 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Enter Course Name</td>
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<td>Enter Course #</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer of Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Number of Credits = 36</td>
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Student Signature ______________________________ Date __________________________

Advisor Signature ______________________________ Date __________________________
GRADUATE TRANSFER OF CREDIT REQUEST

Return this completed form to your Graduate Department for approval.

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Date: ____________

G#: ___________________ Degree or Certificate Program: __________

Student’s Day Phone: ___________ Student’s E-mail: ______________

TRANSFER OF CREDIT REQUIREMENTS:

- The credit must be graduate credit earned at another accredited university, earned at another institution and recommended for graduate credit in the American Council on Education guidebook, or earned at Mason while in non-degree status.
- The credit must have been earned within six years prior to first enrollment as an admitted student in the specific certificate or degree program.
- A minimum grade of B (3.00) must have been earned.
- The course must be applicable toward a degree at the institution offering the course. Extension and in-service courses that are not intended by the institution offering the courses to be applied to a degree program are not eligible for transfer credit to Mason.
- The credits cannot have been previously applied toward a degree at another institution or Mason; however, up to 3 credits previously applied to a degree program at another institution may be transferred into a certificate program at Mason.

CREDITS EARNED AT MASON THROUGH NON-DEGREE STUDIES: Grades will count in Mason GPA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number &amp; Title</th>
<th>Semester &amp; Year</th>
<th>Grade Earned</th>
<th>Credits Earned</th>
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CREDITS EARNED AT ANOTHER INSTITUTION: Grades will not count in Mason GPA.

A sealed official transcript must accompany this request. Please note: Mason operates on a semester system. Credits earned at institutions using a quarter system should be multiplied by .667 to determine the number of credits to be transferred.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution/Location</th>
<th>Course Title &amp; Number</th>
<th>Semester &amp; Year</th>
<th>Grade Earned</th>
<th>Credits Earned</th>
<th>Mason Course Equivalent</th>
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Total Number of Credits to be transferred into current degree program: ________

Course Departmental approval (Only required for courses outside the student’s program) Date

Graduate Program Chair/Director Date

Student’s Dean Date

Registrar’s Office Use: Fax 703-993-4088 Date _______ By ______