PhD in Political Science
Student/Faculty Handbook
2015-2016

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Introduction
Welcome to George Mason University’s PhD Program in Public Policy. The program faculty looks forward to a rewarding professional association with you during this important part of your career.

This Handbook
This Handbook should be used as a reference to proceed through the program. Students are expected to read it carefully to learn about the program and refer back to it as they progress through the stages of the program. The Student/Faculty Handbook guides each incoming class, although details may differ slightly between each yearly edition. This Handbook applies to the class of students entering during the 2015-2016 academic year. Students are guided by the terms of this version throughout the program, although the faculty reserves the right to make changes to the program. The provisions of this handbook supplement, but do not replace, those of the University Catalog.

Your Education is in Your Hands
A doctoral education will serve as an “apprenticeship” to provide students with the knowledge and experience that will enable them to move confidently into advanced positions in the field of public policy. As students develop professionally and academically through coursework and a variety of research experiences, they will progress from the core courses to advanced methodological courses, and then to specialized content courses. Research and practical experience both inside and outside GMU will provide valuable complements to studies in the field of public policy.

At established milestones, assessments will be made of each student’s progress to determine whether s/he is ready for the next step of the academic journey. A satisfactory grade in each of the core courses, plus an overall satisfactory rate of progress (particularly on written research material), allows the student to continue in the program.

To facilitate the development of necessary skills, students will work with a faculty advisor from the beginning of the program. The faculty member will act as mentor, advisor, evaluator, and supervisor. However, each student is ultimately responsible for the development of his/her own education and for making progress in the program. The journey will be demanding, difficult, and time consuming, but students should also find it exciting, challenging, and intellectually fulfilling.

Upon completing all requirements, along with the positive assessment and formal recommendation of the faculty, students are awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. This degree symbolizes the completion of a comprehensive public policy education and research program that is designed to develop a fully capable and responsible public policy analyst, scholar, and advanced professional. This degree also marks the beginning of a career in continuing education, a journey that will never be complete.
Scholarly Research
Receiving a PhD in Public Policy is an honor awarded by the faculty of a university for advanced scholarly achievement. It is awarded for scholarship, not merely for the successful completion of coursework. Students must also successfully complete the qualifying examination, the field statement, the dissertation proposal, and the dissertation.

In addition to conveying existing knowledge to a new generation, doctoral programs are dedicated to expanding the knowledge base of a field. Hence, the development of research skills is of primary importance. In contrast to master’s programs, students will spend much time on research not directly related to coursework but essential to mastery of the scholarship of public policy in a particular focus area. Students are expected to work with faculty-led research teams throughout their program, which will foster the maturation of research skills and facilitate the development of a doctoral dissertation proposal that addresses a significant issue in the field of public policy.

Many students return to academia after a significant period of time in the workforce, and many continue to work while pursuing degrees. Nevertheless, the program places a heavy emphasis on contributions by each student to the intellectual life of the program and the School. This includes participation in research projects; attendance at seminars, conferences, and workshops; and publication of on-going research. Students are expected to become acquainted with the research projects of program faculty, staff, and fellow students through attending colloquia, brown-bag lunch presentations, and other informal research reviews. As students develop research interests, they should ask to join appropriate research teams. As new members of our scholarly community, doctoral students bring not only substantive knowledge of public policy topics, but also a set of analytical methods and the ability to use as well as expand on them.

Oral and written presentations serve as practice for a scholarly or professional career. The School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs (SPGIA) encourages its students to present their research at colloquia, professional conventions, and meetings with other public policy professionals. Additionally, by the end of their second year in the program, students in the Public Policy PhD program are expected to have written a paper suitable for presentation at a professional conference or publication in a scholarly journal.

Publication in peer-reviewed journals is one of the primary ways that scholars communicate new research and contribute to the understanding of public policy. Such publications are important indicators of scholarly achievement and are used by universities and public policy organizations to judge the quality of young scholars. Doctoral students should pursue opportunities to present their research at professional meetings and publish in journals. One outlet for presenting student research is the research workshops organized by SPGIA doctoral students to help their colleagues develop research and present their findings. SPGIA also supports a Working Paper Series for students and faculty, and students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. In addition to presenting research, attending professional meetings and related social functions enhances a student’s professional development and also provides opportunities to network.
School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs

George Mason University’s commitment to public policy studies and policy research led to the development of the Institute of Public Policy in 1991, which became the School of Public Policy in 2000. Over the next fourteen years, the School grew into a major center for applied policy research. In 2014, the School of Public Policy merged with the department of Public and International Affairs to form one of the largest policy and leadership schools in the U.S. The School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs prepares graduate and undergraduate students for professional and scholarly opportunities in the public, private, and non-profit sectors in the National Capital Region, across the country, and around the world.

The School’s dedication to interdisciplinary education and research allows it to reach across the University and bring together the knowledge and skills needed to address a wide variety of policy concerns. While most of its core faculty members hold full-time tenured positions within SPGIA, some members of the faculty are from other University departments and schools. SPGIA also has important research faculty on grants and contracts as well as short-term appointments. These contributions are central to SPGIA’s educational and research objectives.

GMU is located on four campuses in Northern Virginia (Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Loudon) and one campus in Songdo, Korea. With a student body of over 32,000 enrolled in a variety of graduate and undergraduate programs, Mason has established an international reputation at the same time that it has become an indispensable engine of innovation and growth in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the National Capital region.

In establishing SPGIA, the University sought to take advantage of its location adjacent to the nation’s seat of government and still make it sensitive to the northern Virginia region. This prime location offers students and faculty unique opportunities to study federal executive and legislative policymaking in addition to agency policy activities. Currently, SPGIA has over 70 full-time teaching and research faculty members, as well as many experienced adjunct teaching faculty members and a strong professional staff. SPGIA maintains eighteen research centers, and external research support averages more than $3 million a year and the School’s annual expenditures exceed $20 million.

SPGIA is highly interdisciplinary. The faculty represents more than a dozen academic fields, including political science, economics, geography, sociology, anthropology, business, public administration, engineering, history, law, medicine, education, environmental policy, and urban planning. Many are leaders in their academic fields. A number of faculty members hold elected positions in professional organizations and serve as consultants to government agencies, non-governmental organizations and corporations. Currently, SPGIA faculty includes five endowed chairs, two Distinguished Service Professors, nine University Professors, one of the five Jean Monnet Professors in the country, and seven members of the National Academy of Public Administration. In addition to the academic faculty and graduate students, SPGIA hosts a substantial number of senior fellows, visiting faculty, post-doctoral associates, and other researchers who make important contributions to the School’s activities.

SPGIA is a leading center for research in a number of fields, including national and homeland security, regional economic development, transportation, biodefense, science and technology, public administration, organization and knowledge management, national governance, and economic policy.
Faculty and students in the School publish widely in primary academic and professional journals in these and other fields, such as American policy and politics, comparative politics, legislative and executive branch policy-making, federalism, environmental policy, and foreign affairs policy.

SPGIA’s PhD in Public Policy emphasizes alternate approaches to policy decisions. The School recognizes that continuing innovations in modern technology bring about social and economic changes. These changes require modifications in the substance of public policy, as well as in the way public decisions are made. SPGIA contributes to new concepts in policy formation, while building on the fundamental, pluralistic, and democratic characteristics of policy-making in the U.S. Appropriate techniques of investigation and analysis also are emphasized. The School is committed to working closely with the University’s initiatives in computational science, information technology, bioinformatics, environmental science, conflict analysis and resolution, health, law, economics, and other fields.

**Doctoral Program Overview**

The objective of the PhD program is to prepare political scientists for professional careers in research and/or teaching by combining academic education in the field with opportunities for experience within the kinds of complex domestic and international political organizations they are studying. Graduates will be scholars and teachers, but experience-based understanding will enhance their analytic skills. Our location in the metropolitan Washington DC area and abundant links to political institutions make US a prime location for this new kind of political science degree. Our large and distinguished faculty offers both depth and breadth in the scholarship of the four primary fields of the degree: a) the institutions and processes of American government b) international relations c) comparative politics and d) public administration. Students also have the opportunity in this program to take advantage of the courses in other Mason graduate units, such as the Global Affairs Program, and the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

**The Curriculum**

The program allows students to specialize in one of four fields: American Politics and Government, International Relations, Comparative Politics or Public Administration. In addition, courses in Research Methods are required of students in all fields.

**American Government and Politics**: The field of American government and politics examines the principles, processes, institutions, behaviors and development of the American political system. The curriculum in this field is designed to provide a strong knowledge base and the analytical skills that will enable students to understand, evaluate, and critique the complex interdependencies of American politics.

SPGIA is particularly strong in American institutions which form the basis for understanding of political behavior and governmental processes. Federalism and state and local politics are well developed areas as well, thanks to our long-established offerings in public administration. We have a growing expertise in political behavior and political development. Moreover, public forums in American politics at the Woodrow Wilson Center Institution, numerous Washington area think-tanks, and at other metro-area universities further enrich the intellectual setting for the PhD program.
International Relations. The field of International Relations focuses on the changing structure of international politics, including post-cold war security issues, the rise of international terrorism, foreign policy development, international political economy—including the effects of economic globalization, the information technology revolution, and the enhanced role of global corporations and nongovernmental organizations – and the rise of other nonsecurity issues on the emerging international agenda, from environmental policy to human rights.

Our approach, influenced by the reality of globalization, is grounded in the belief that the intersection between domestic politics and international affairs is of increasing importance in this globalized and interconnected world, and that a theoretical approach that aims to unite the theoretical and conceptual concerns of both comparative politics and international affairs best prepares students to analyze the complex political dynamics that today affect global peace and stability.

Our International Relations faculty include specialists on the full range of issues that concern contemporary international affairs, including security policy, foreign policy, international political economy, war and peace, post-colonial and ethnic politics, ethics in international affairs, and human rights and humanitarian intervention. Many are also area studies specialists.

Comparative Politics. The field of Comparative Politics focuses on the governance processes and institutions of other nations and regions of the world, as well as the comparative and cross-national analysis of political institutions, processes, and behavior. Comparative politics faculty at George Mason University are grounded in specific areas of expertise common to the sub-field of comparative politics, such as democratization, political parties and other democratic institutions, state-society relations, revolutions, warfare, social movements, ethnic politics, and political economy. Many also bring expertise as area studies specialists in the key regions of the world, including the Middle East, Europe, Latin America, Central and East Asia, and Africa.

In addition to the rich course offerings in International Relations and Comparative Politics, students have the opportunity to attend an extraordinary number of talks by academics, political leaders, and officials from around the world in the greater Washington DC area. Our location affords students the opportunity to participate in forums organized by other area universities, think tanks, advocacy groups, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations such as the Organization of American States, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Public Administration. The field of public administration examines how government and other sectors work to achieve policy goals and objectives through various forms of collective action. The curriculum in this field traditionally has focused on the organization and management of public bureaucracies and their contributions to public policy outcomes.

However, reflecting recent trends allocating authority and responsibility for the delivery of public services to such nongovernmental actors as private profit and nonprofit organizations, the field has expanded to include a focus on whether and how networks of public and private actors collaborate to achieve public objectives. The field also has become more global as public management practices and theories are diffused across national and regional administrative settings. George Mason’s public
administration program has been among the nation’s leaders in incorporating this shift into the core of its curriculum.

Our faculty’s research interests include work on accountability in third party governance, public management and organization theory, privatization, nonprofit governance, intergovernmental management, and homeland security. In addition, many members of the faculty maintain strong ties to the world of public management practice, including involvement as Fellows of the National Academy of Public Administration, consultant roles with federal and nonprofit agencies and active participation in public management associations. George Mason’s public administration program also enjoys advantages from our location in suburban Washington, DC, which provides easy access to a wide array of national and international organizations, firms, and think tanks, as well as to the institutions and agencies of the federal government.

PhD students have many opportunities for exposure to the numerous conferences and forums held on public management issues in the Washington area by such organizations as the National Academy of Public Administration, the Brookings Institution, the World Bank, the Urban Institute and the Council on Excellence in Government.

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Program Requirements
The degree requires 72 hours of coursework divided among: core courses; advanced courses in the student’s major and minor fields; supporting courses that can be taken outside SPGIA; research methods courses; experiential learning; and dissertation guidance.

The course work is allocated as follows:

- **Core Courses:** 9 credits chosen from five core courses: GOVT 510, GOVT 520, GOVT 530, GOVT 540, and GOVT 550.

- **Major Field Courses:** at least 21 credits of advanced course work divided between two major fields (American government and politics, public administration, international relations, or comparative politics).

- **Minor Field Courses:** at least 9 credits of advanced coursework in a third field to be designed by the student and advisor to complement the major fields and with written approval of student’s advisor on the education plan.

- **Methodology Courses:** 9 credits to include Research Methods in Political Science (GOVT 500), Problem Solving and Data Analysis (GOVT 511), and one other course in quantitative or qualitative methods. The last of the three methodology courses should be tailored to the student’s dissertation research needs. Language coursework and proficiency may count as the third methodology course with approval.
● Electives: at least 12 credits in electives. Six (6) credits may come from practical experience in the field.

● Dissertation Proposal (GOVT 998): 3-6 credits.

● Dissertation Guidance (GOVT 999): Students may apply to this degree a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 credits of 998 and a minimum of 9 credits of 999. They apply a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 24 dissertation credits (998 and 999 combined) to the degree. A minimum of 3 credits per semester must be enrolled until 12 total combined credits have been completed. Students may register for one credit a semester thereafter.

● Continuous Registration (Govt 998 and Govt 999)

Once enrolled in GOVT 998, Dissertation Proposal, a student must maintain continuous registration in GOVT 998 or 999 each semester (not including summers) until the dissertation is submitted to and accepted by the University Library. Failure to maintain continuous enrollment will result in dismissal from the program.

Political Science Degree Program Details

During their first semester in the program, students meet with their advisors and with PhD Student Services to complete a degree plan. (See Appendix III for degree plan forms). Students are expected to discuss this plan periodically throughout their time in the program, make updates, and submit revisions for approval.

Courses for the Degree

Foundation Courses (9 credits from the following):

GOVT 510 American Politics
GOVT 520 Political Theory
GOVT 530 Comparative Politics
GOVT 540 International Relations and Comparative Politics**
GOVT 550 Public Administration

Methodology Courses:

GOVT 500 Research Methods**
GOVT 511 Problem Solving and Data Analysis I (requires taking and passing a statistics screening exam prior to class registration.)

One additional course in quantitative or qualitative methods is required. The last of the three methodology courses should be tailored to the student’s dissertation research needs. Language coursework and proficiency may count as the third methodology course work with approval on the education plan form.
Courses for the Field in American Government

Required Seminars (2 of the following 4 seminars are required):
GOVT 603 Seminar in Courts and Constitutional Law
GOVT 604 Seminar in Congress and Legislative Behavior
GOVT 605 Seminar on the Presidency
GOVT 706 Seminar in Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations

Courses for the Field of Comparative Politics

Required Seminars (the following 2 seminars are required):
GOVT 631 Seminar in Comparative Politics and Institutions
GOVT 731 Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics

Courses for the Field of International Relations

Required Seminars (2 of the following 4 seminars are required):
GOVT 641 Global Governance
GOVT 741 Advanced Seminar in International Relations

GOVT 743 International Political Economy
GOVT 745 International Security

Courses for the Field of Public Administration

Required Seminars (the following 2 seminars are required):
GOVT 753 Seminar in Third Party Governance
GOVT 755 Seminar in Politics and the Bureaucracy

**GOVT 500 and GOVT 540**
Because of particularly heavy structural demand for these courses, it is suggested that you register early for these courses. They fill up very quickly.

Minor Field
Students choose one minor field in consultation with an advisor. The courses in the minor field should complement the two major fields and need the prior written approval of the advisor.

The minor field is a substantive area, often one that could or will likely be related to the dissertation. The student’s advisor and the Graduate Director must approve any choice of courses constituting a minor field. Further, the minor field may not be made up of more than one (1) directed reading or independent study course. Illustrative examples: Middle East studies, interest groups, French politics, peasant movements, state theory etc.
A minor field chosen in methods may not include any of the courses counted for the methods requirement. Moreover, a methods minor may not be a foreign language. Courses chosen for a minor in methods must cohere in some substantive way; they may not simply be a list of “methods” courses.

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**Foreign Language as Methods Elective**

Advanced knowledge of a foreign language, as attested to by specific outside examination, may be counted as constituting the three (3) credits (only) of the required elective methods course. The student’s faculty advisor or probable dissertation advisor must certify that advanced knowledge of the language designated is essential and necessary to the successful doctoral dissertation work of the student. The Graduate Director must also approve.

Certification of the student’s proficiency in the designated language must be arranged for, paid by and provided to the graduate office by the student. It is solely the responsibility of the student to ensure that certification is received BEFORE comprehensive field examinations are taken. There are no exemptions from this requirement.

Certification must be obtained at the required level for speaking, reading and writing (see below) through Language Testing International (LTI) of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). (See [http://www.languagetesting.com/](http://www.languagetesting.com/) for details of all logistical elements of testing and payment.) No other certification from any other source will be accepted. (Note: The Department of Foreign Languages at George Mason University does NOT test for proficiency.)

“Proficiency” is defined as “advanced – sub-grade mid” for speaking and reading and “intermediate” for writing on the LTI scale of: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced (with three sub-grades: low, mid and high) and Superior. (See [http://www.languagetesting.com/proficiency-scales](http://www.languagetesting.com/proficiency-scales) for details of these levels and all logistical elements of testing and payment.)

Certification of all required levels must also be provided for any language approved for doctoral dissertation work under this rubric, which may also be the student’s first (or “native”) language.

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**Comprehensive Qualifying Examination**

At the conclusion of their course work, students will take a written Comprehensive Examination in their two primary fields of specialization. This exam will be based on the student’s course work and on the reading list prepared for each field. The exam must be completed before the student takes dissertation proposal or dissertation guidance courses.

The following explains the process for the Comprehensive exams.
The graduate office, with at least two if not three months advance notice, publishes the dates for the next cycle of PhD comprehensive exams. Each PhD student must take comprehensive examinations in two fields. Therefore, the office publishes two (2) days/dates, exactly (Usually) one week apart. The graduate program offers two (2) cycles per year: May and January.

Students planning on taking comprehensive exams must submit a completed and advisor approved Degree Plan form to the Graduate Coordinator at least one month prior to the exam dates. The purpose is to verify that all academics have been completed.

Students planning to take their comps during a given cycle MUST be available for BOTH dates. Students who cannot make those dates MUST postpone to the following round.

No dispensation or special provision is needed for a “late” exam, as long as the maximum semesters of enrollment allowed by the university are respected.

Exams are prepared by duly appointed field committees. The fields are: international relations, American politics, comparative politics, and public administration. Each exam requires that three (3) questions be answered, one (1) of which is methodology. The required number of answers is structured through an element of choice: i.e., in each section the number of questions from which to choose is greater than the number of answers required. The exam may be otherwise structured as the exam committee sees fit: the three required answers, for example, may be distributed across two or three sections. (Methodology must always constitute its own section.)

Exams are graded by the duly appointed field committee, which reaches, through its deliberations a single result for each answer and, then, a single result for the exam overall. The possible grades for each question and for the exam overall are FAIL, PASS and HIGH PASS. (There is no grade of LOW PASS.)

ALL THREE (3) answers must achieve a PASS or higher for a grade of PASS for the overall exam. Any question that is failed must be re-taken at a subsequent exam cycle (in the same area with new questions). Any question area that is failed may be re-taken no more than one time. Failing a question area twice means that the overall exam is failed and that the student is failed from the program, leaving with an MA degree.

Each day of the exam is made up of an 8-hour session, in a university room designated by the graduate office and supervised by graduate office staff. A computer is provided. NO NOTES/NO BOOKS/NO READING LISTS.

As always at George Mason University, ADA provisions apply. Address all ADA matters to the university’s disability services.
Dissertation

Dissertation Chair
An important key to success in a dissertation is the selection of a dissertation chair who must be a member of the SPGIA core faculty. The dissertation chair gives primary guidance to the student while in candidacy.

Typically, students and faculty members discover or develop mutual interests, and the decision of who will be the advisor flows naturally from their evolving relationship. This decision is voluntary on both sides; that is, the student is free to select the dissertation chair, and the faculty is free to decide which students’ committees to chair. It is the responsibility of the student to identify a dissertation chair who will accept the responsibility of supervision. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program. It may become necessary to make significant modifications to the proposed topic to meet the interests of the available faculty.

The Role of the Chair
Chairs serve as the major advisor and mentor to the doctoral candidates as they research and write their dissertation. Expectations of the chair include the following:

For the Proposal:
- Consult and meet with the student on a regular basis
- Advise on topic selection (e.g., appropriateness, academic value)
- Guide the student in the proposal writing process (e.g., understanding the need for a clearly defined problem statement, precise research questions, viable methodology, focused literature review, and thorough bibliography)
- Counsel student on reliability and validity of data-gathering methods
- Ensure that all research activities will be reviewed by the Human Subjects Review Board prior to implementation of the research activities. George Mason University requires that all research activities involving human subjects or data regarding human subjects that are directed by a Mason faculty member, staff member or student (including thesis and dissertation work) or involve Mason faculty, staff or students as participants, must be submitted to the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance for review and approval. Refer to http://oria.gmu.edu/home/
- The Dissertation Chair will serve as the principal investigator for the research and assumes responsibility for the legal and ethical conduct of the work.
- Facilitate committee discussions about creating and improving the proposal

For the Dissertation:
- Meet with student on a regular basis to provide guidance and evaluation during the research and writing stages
- Review dissertation drafts in a timely manner
- Offer recommendations for revisions
- Communicate with committee members
- Discuss any problematic issues in the dissertation with the committee, student, and program director
Approve the final draft for the dissertation defense, with the concurrence of the committee members
Attend and supervise the dissertation defense
Attend graduation/convocation to hood the candidate

**Dissertation Committee**

As soon as the student passes the Comprehensive Exams, the student should meet with the Doctoral Program Director about forming the dissertation committee.

All dissertation committees must consist of at least three members of the Mason faculty, at least two of whom must be from SPGIA. The dissertation chair must be a member of the Political Science program of the student’s field of study. Only a faculty member with a full-time appointment at George Mason University may serve as dissertation chair. The chair as well as the two other primary committee members must be tenured or tenure-track (assistant, associate, or full professor). Other Mason faculty, as well as individuals from outside the university, may be appointed as additional members to the committee. Such appointments are made where the additional member’s expertise and contribution add value to the dissertation, but appointment does not require tenured or tenure-track faculty status.

Student-initiated changes in the composition of the dissertation committee may occur only with the approval of the PhD Program Director and SPGIA Dean in consultation with the committee. Faculty may resign from a dissertation committee with appropriate notice by submitting a written resignation.

If the dissertation chair departs from the university the following will apply: With the approval of the PhD Program Director, faculty departing at the end of the academic year (spring) will be allowed to continue in that role until the deadline for submitting dissertations for the summer. If the student does not or will not meet the deadline for submission in summer, a new chair must be appointed for the student’s committee. In all other cases, it is required that the dissertation chair be a member of the graduate faculty member with a full-time appointment at Mason.

**The Role of the Committee**

The dissertation committee works with the chair to provide advice and consultation to the candidate throughout the process of research and writing. Expectations of the committee members include the following:

**For the Proposal**
- Meet with the student
- Advise on topic selection (e.g., appropriateness, academic value)
- Offer expertise in the member’s area of study
- Read and review the proposal in a timely manner
- Discuss any recommendations for revisions with the committee chair and student

**For the Dissertation**
- Meet with the student to provide guidance and evaluation during the research and writing stages
- Review dissertation drafts in a timely manner
- Offer recommendations for revisions
- Discuss any problematic issues in the dissertation with the committee chair and student
- Approve the final draft for the dissertation defense, in consultation with the other committee members

Members of the dissertation committee are expected to be present in person at the dissertation defense.

**Registration during Proposal and Dissertation Work**

**Degree Requirement**: Students may apply to this degree a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 credits of 998 and a minimum of 9 credits of 999. They apply a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 24 dissertation credits (998 and 999 combined) to the degree. Because of the continuous registration policy, students may be required to register for additional credits of this course. **More than 6 credits of 998 will not apply to the degree.**

Students working on dissertation research (999) must register for a minimum of 3 credits of 999 per semester (excluding summers) until they have completed the minimum number of credits of 998 and 999 required by the university and their degree program. Then, they must register for 1 credit of 999 until the dissertation is complete and has been officially submitted to the library. Students must be registered by the first day of classes for each semester or they will incur a financial penalty. Failure to be continuously enrolled in 998 and 999 will result in dismissal from the program.

Students must register for GOVT 998 to complete work on the dissertation proposal. To qualify for registration, the student must first have passed the Comprehensive Exams and identified the Chair of the Dissertation Committee.

The process of registering for GOVT 998 requires that the student has identified the Chair of the Dissertation Committee. The Chair must notify PhD Student Services that he/she has agreed to serve as the Dissertation Chair. PhD Student Services will then provide the student with CRN. The student then goes on to PatriotWeb to register for GOVT 998.

The student may be registering for more than one semester of GOVT 998, depending upon how far along the student is on committee formation and topic development. One to six credits of proposal in total are required for Political Science students. Students do not need to be registered for the summer term for GOVT 998 unless that is the term that the student will advance to candidacy.

**Dissertation Proposal**

Before writing the dissertation itself, each student must prepare a dissertation proposal and defend it successfully. The purpose of the proposal is to demonstrate to the committee that the student has done sufficient research and planning to be able to complete the dissertation. Passing the proposal defense constitutes approval for the student to undertake the research and writing of the dissertation. Students should expect to spend several months writing the proposal, which is usually thirty to forty double-spaced pages, but the dissertation chair will determine the appropriate length for any specific proposal.
The proposal narrows the scope of research from the broad field statements to a focused research question or hypothesis. The precise format of the proposal will take shape in consultation between the student and committee members. While the structure of each individual student’s proposal might differ somewhat, the following outline serves as a guide for both the student and the committee.

1. **Title and Abstract**: A working title for the dissertation and an abstract will head the proposal; the student should be able to state the purpose of the dissertation in one sentence.

2. **Introduction**: The introduction defines the area of inquiry, explains why it is important to political science, and shows how the dissertation relates to the broader area of political science scholarship. The introduction also briefly states the research question or hypothesis, and it lays out the framework for the rest of the proposal.

3. **Literature Review**: The proposal includes a focused survey of the field to which the student will make a new contribution. The literature review is not merely a descriptive list of related books and scholarly articles or an annotated bibliography. It should focus on scholarship directly relevant to the dissertation and show how the dissertation will contribute new knowledge to that literature. What are the major controversies in the field and how will the dissertation help advance knowledge of the issue in question? How has the literature dealt with these topics thus far? What is the gap in the scholarship that the dissertation is intended to fill? The literature review should not be seen as a survey of related scholarship; it should be carefully integrated into the purpose of the proposed dissertation.

4. **Research Questions and Hypotheses**: After placing the dissertation topic in the extant literature, the proposal explains in detail the research question or hypothesis and how the dissertation will answer the central question. Secondary questions or hypotheses are appropriate, but overall, the dissertation should address one central question. What theoretical or causal connections will the dissertation demonstrate? What leads the student to expect the predicted outcomes? What sub-questions will the student answer in addressing the main research question?

5. **Data Collection**: This section of the proposal describes how the data will be collected. What data or information will the student explore in order to bring empirical evidence to bear on the topic (databases, archival sources, documents, laws, survey data, interviews, etc.)? What new evidence will the student develop that has not been available before? Alternatively, how will the student use the existing data to address questions that have not yet been addressed?

6. **Methods of Analysis and Limitations of the Data**: Once the proposal addresses theoretical, substantive, and data gathering issues, it then explains the methodology of the inquiry. The methods used should flow from the type of question the proposal asks and the nature of the evidence available (or to be developed). If the proposal uses quantitative data, how will the student operationalize the main concepts being addressed? That is, how will the data being explored represent the issues the student is addressing? Is the fit tight or loose? Is the student aware of the limits of the data? If the proposal uses quantitative data or evidence, what specific data analysis techniques will be used? If the proposal uses qualitative data, how will the student evaluate the empirical data? If the proposal uses a case study, how representative will the case be
of other cases? Will the findings be relevant to public policy issues beyond this proposal’s specific case? The proposal should be clear about gaps or limitations in the data selected.

7. **Implications of the Research:** Finally, the proposal addresses the potential implications of the research. How will this research improve our understanding of political science? The significance might be theoretical (e.g., how can we understand the issue better?), methodological (e.g., how can we use better measurements in understanding the issue?), or practical (e.g., how can this area of political science be better implemented?). The student should be clear about the limitations of the research and the potential gaps between what the study is measuring and the conclusions the student wishes to draw from it.

8. **Time Frame and Bibliography:** The proposal should include a concrete time frame for completing the research and tentative chapter titles, as well as a bibliography of the sources cited in the proposal, using the citation or reference style that the dissertation chair has approved.

It is essential for students to keep in touch with their committee members, especially their dissertation chairs. Students should avoid surprising their committees with what they think are finished products. The expectation is that students correspond regularly with their committee members, sending outlines and ideas, and reporting progress on the research. It is the responsibility of the student to keep the committee informed of the status of the research and writing.

**Dissertation Proposal Defense**

Students should work closely with their committee chair as they formulate their proposal. It is recommended that the student meet frequently with the committee chair and with each committee member as required by the committee chair. GOVT 998 is graded “IP” for “In Progress” until the student advances to candidacy.

Once the committee has reviewed and approved the proposal, the student schedules the defense with the help of PhD Student Services. At the defense, the student makes an oral presentation of the proposal to the committee and any other SPGIA faculty, fellow students, or outside scholars who wish to attend.

In scheduling the defense, it is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all members of the committee are available and will be present for the defense. This is especially important during the summer, as faculty members are not obligated to be available during summer session. Any requests for exceptions to these requirements must be made well in advance in writing by the student's committee chair and approved by the Program Director and the Dean.

Students must submit to PhD Student Services **at least 15 days** before the scheduled date of defense:

- a signed Statement of Readiness for Proposal Defense form (found in Appendix III)
- an e-mail with the proposed dissertation title, date and time of defense, names of the committee members, and an abstract of no more than 100 words
- a copy of the final draft of the full dissertation proposal
After the proposal defense, the student is responsible for collecting faculty signatures on and submitting the Dissertation Proposal Defense form to PhD Student Services.

The dissertation proposal must be approved in writing by all committee members in the semester prior to the semester you wish to register for Dissertation Research (GOVT 999). You will not be able to have your proposal approved and register for GOVT 999 in the same semester.

**Advancement to Candidacy**

Advancement to candidacy for the PhD in Political Science occurs only when all the following steps have been successfully accomplished – in order:

1. All course work has been successfully completed as indicated by requirements published in the university catalogue for the PhD program in political science.

2. Comprehensive examinations in two fields have been successfully passed, as specified in the section on comprehensive examinations.

3. The student has successfully defended, by vote of the student’s dissertation committee, the dissertation proposal – in a public venue, to which faculty and other graduate students, are invited. Dissertation proposal defenses involve both the student’s presentation of it and discussions and questions about it from committee members and members of the audience.

4. The Political Science Program Director has approved the student’s dissertation proposal.

5. The student has submitted to PhD Student Services the following forms: completed Degree Plan Form signed by the advisor, and signed Proposal Approval Form.

6. The advisor has changed grades for 998 from IP to S.

At this point in the process, the student becomes, officially, a PhD candidate.

**The Dissertation**

The student must pass GOVT 998 Dissertation Proposal to be able to register for GOVT 999 Dissertation Research.

The doctoral dissertation is a critical element of advanced research-based education. A dissertation is expected to contribute significantly to new knowledge and understanding of the world in which we live. It builds on the best of what has been discovered and understood by scholars who came before, and it provides a foundation on which further inquiry and additional understanding can be built in the future. Occasionally, a dissertation results *de novo* from a blinding flash of original insight. However, most often a dissertation represents a logical extension of past work and demands that the author have a comprehensive understanding of prior work in the chosen field of
inquiry. Thus, a substantial part of the effort of doing research and writing the dissertation is devoted to building and codifying that base of prior knowledge.

The School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs expects its candidates’ doctoral dissertations to represent outstanding contributions to the base of scholarly inquiry relevant to political science. A candidate’s dissertation research should be significant to some political science issue of importance. Thus a marriage of scholarship and relevance is the hallmark of a good dissertation. A dissertation should incorporate the best professional practices related to style, format, referencing, graphics, and language. Publication is an appropriate goal of any dissertation, and candidates should write with that goal in mind.

**Students working on dissertation research must register for a minimum of 3 credits of GOVT 999 per semester (excluding summers) until they have completed the minimum number of credits of 999 required by their degree program. Then, they must register for 1 credit of GOVT 999 per semester until the dissertation is complete.** See the “Full Time Status of Graduate Students” section of the University Catalog for more information.

Registration for dissertation research (GOVT 999) must be completed by the end of the schedule adjustment period as published in the Schedule of Classes. Failing to register on time in a particular semester does not alter the requirement for continuous registration for 999.

Policies and procedures for the submission of the dissertation can be found on the University Dissertation & Thesis Services website at [http://thesis.gmu.edu/](http://thesis.gmu.edu/). It is critical that the PhD student fulfill the requirements prior to defending the dissertation.

**Oral Defense of the Dissertation**

The candidate must defend the dissertation in public before the dissertation committee and members of the University community who wish to attend.

As with the dissertation proposal defense, candidates will contact PhD Student Services for a room and equipment reservation. Candidates must submit the following to PhD Student Services at least 3 weeks before the scheduled date of defense:

- A signed Oral Dissertation Defense Readiness form- found [here](http://thesis.gmu.edu/)
- An email including the dissertation title, date and time of defense, all committee members, and an abstract of NO MORE THAN 100 WORDS

At the same time, the candidate must provide copies of the dissertation to all members of the dissertation committee. The candidate also must place a copy on reserve at the Fairfax Campus Library Reserve Desk so that it is available to the University community at least three weeks before the scheduled oral defense. In scheduling the defense, it is the candidate’s responsibility to ensure that all members of the committee are available and will be present for the defense. This is especially important during the summer, as faculty members are not obliged to be available during summer session. Any requests for exceptions to these requirements must be made well in advance in writing by the student’s committee chair and approved by the Program Director and the Dean. Candidate must be registered for at least one credit of GOVT 999 during the semester in which they graduate. August graduates must register for summer session.
Policies and procedures for the submission of the dissertation can be found on the University and Dissertation & Thesis Services (UDTS) website at http://thesis.gmu.edu/. It is critical that the PhD student fulfill the requirements prior to defending the dissertation.

At the close of the defense, the dissertation committee makes final judgments for approving the dissertation. The doctoral candidate is responsible for making all required changes promptly, submitting the original and required copies, and obtaining signatures. Final approval for the dissertation is given by the doctoral dissertation committee; Division Chair; Program Director; and Dean, all of whom must sign the final copy.

For a dissertation to be approved, all members of the committee must sign. If a committee member refuses to do so, the student or any member of the committee may petition the Dean. The Dean may seek the advice of outside reviewers to provide assessment of the work. The final decision is that of the Dean and is not subject to appeal.

The student must defend the dissertation within 9 years of beginning the program, and 6 years of advancing to candidacy. Students must file their Intent to Graduate with the registrar’s office the semester before they plan on graduating. Please consult the following website for further information on graduation timelines: http://registrar.gmu.edu/graduation/index.html.

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Dissertation Format and Delivery of Final Copies

Candidates are required to follow the University’s “Thesis, Dissertation, or Project Guide.” The University rigidly applies its requirements for format, graphics, style, and timeline. It is the responsibility of the candidate to follow the established guidelines, available on the web at:

http://thesis.gmu.edu

The University requires a format review by the University Dissertation & Thesis Services (UDTS) Coordinator in Fenwick Library. The candidate should forward a copy of the dissertation to the Coordinator as soon as possible before the defense to allow time to make the necessary changes to the document. The Coordinator reviews the completed dissertation for compliance with the guidelines. The Coordinator does not assume responsibility for editing or putting the dissertation in final form, which is fully the responsibility of the candidate. UDTS is in Room C-203 Fenwick Library on the Fairfax campus, MS 2FL, telephone: (703) 993-2222.

Once the candidate receives all necessary approvals, the dissertation, must be submitted to the university under the mandatory Electronic Submission Policy and will be placed in the Mason Archival Repository Service (MARS). It is the candidate’s responsibility to review the dissertation submission information available online and to contact the UDTS Coordinator to understand the submission requirements. Please note that the School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs requires immediate availability of all SPGIA dissertations. SPGIA students and graduates do not have the option of placing an embargo on their work on MARS.

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Intent to Graduate Form & Graduation Application
At the beginning of the semester in which a candidate intends to graduate, the student must file an “Intent to Graduate” form (GIF) on PatriotWeb at:

https://patriotweb.gmu.edu/

The current deadlines are available on the web at:

http://registrar.gmu.edu/graduation/

Participation in Commencement/Convocation
Candidates who have qualified for graduation for the summer, fall, and spring semesters are invited to participate in the University’s commencement and the School’s convocation ceremonies. Information and dates relating to Commencement can be found at:

http://events.gmu.edu/commencement/

International Student Services

Visa Status
Each international student is responsible for having a current and valid visa. Failure to do so may have serious consequences, which include being forced to leave the country. Students on F-1 and J-1 visas must maintain their full-time status, demonstrate appropriate financial resources, and remain in good academic standing. All visa-related issues are handled through the Office of International Programs and Services.

Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS)
OIPS provides advice on immigration matters, employment applications, taxation, GMU academic policies, cultural adjustment, and other practical issues. The office conducts an international student orientation each semester, organizes outings, arranges bi-weekly workshops on topics of interest, and co-sponsors International Week each spring.

To learn more, visit the Office of International Programs and Services located in Student Union Building I Addition, Fairfax Campus, Suite 4300, (703) 993-2970, http://oips.gmu.edu/. OIPS also holds office hours in Arlington. Please check the OIPS website for more information.

International Student Health Insurance
Health insurance is required for all F-1 and J-1 visa holders. Health insurance fees are deducted from all payments received by the University before funds are applied to tuition or other charges. Failure to make this payment may result in cancellation of classes. See the Health Insurance section for further information.

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University Services

Electronic Communication and Mason E-mail Accounts
Students are required to activate and access the e-mail account provided by the University. The University will communicate only via Mason e-mail accounts for registration, student accounts/billing, and financial aid. Students are responsible for the content of any communication sent to them by e-mail. Students may choose to have GMU e-mails forwarded directly to another account. Account setup instructions can be found at the MasonLive website:

http://masonlive.gmu.edu

Please note that the default setting for mail forwarding retains copies of e-mail on the GMU server. To avoid errors due to mailboxes being over quota, students should either regularly delete e-mail from their GMU account or, when setting up mail forwarding, students can choose to not save a copy of e-mails on the server. If students have any difficulties with this process, they should contact ITU at support@gmu.edu or by phone at (703) 993-8870.

Health Insurance
Students may purchase health insurance through Aetna Student Health. F-1 and J-1 visa students are automatically enrolled in the University’s plan. The deadline for an annual policy or for fall semester enrollment is September 15, 2015. George Mason University’s policy number is 724536. For additional information contact Student Health Services at (703) 993-2831 or visit the Student Health Services website at:

http://shs.gmu.edu/ or the Aetna Student Health website at:

http://www.aetnastudenthealth.com/schools/georgemason

SPGIA Career Services
SPGIA offers comprehensive career service assistance for all current SPGIA graduate students. Staff is available to help students review and revise resumes and cover letters, explore career goals, and identify employment opportunities. Through one-on-one meetings and regular workshops, Career Services provides students with the skills needed for a successful career search. For more information on career services, please visit:

http://spgia.gmu.edu/current-students/career-services/

Career Services maintains an online job and internship database, SPGIA CareersNow, which provides up-to-date listings of current positions and career events. Students who register for SPGIA CareersNow can review job and internship positions, as well as connect with employers actively recruiting.

https://spgia-gmu-csm.symplicity.com/students/

In addition to SPGIA CareersNow, students may also wish to Use GMU’s general job and internship database, HireMason http://careers.gmu.edu/, or to take advantage of SPGIA’s LinkedIn group to maintain contact and network with faculty, fellow students and alumni.
Office of Disability Services
As part of GMU’s continuing commitment to uphold the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities, the university established and maintains the Office of Disability Services (ODS). The mission of the ODS at GMU is to facilitate equal access for students with disabilities to university programs, events, and services. They do this by collaborating with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. Students who believe they may be eligible for disability-related services should call ODS at (703) 993-2474 or visit the office on the Fairfax Campus in the Student Union Building (SUB) I, Room 2500, to find out what is needed to establish a file and receive services. Please see the following website for more information:

http://ods.gmu.edu/

Program Administration, Policy and Procedures

The School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs administers the PhD program in Political Science. Key individuals responsible for the administration of the program include:

Dean
Associate Dean, Government and International Relations
Associate Dean, Public Policy and Administration
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
PhD Program Director
Assistant Dean for Graduate Program Management
Director of PhD Student Services
Associate Director of Career Development
Director of Graduate Admissions
Academic Programs Coordinator

Professor Mark J. Rozell
Professor Ming Wan
Professor Robert L. Dudley
Professor Matthys K. van Schaik
Professor Ming Wan
Elizabeth Eck Olchowski
Shannon Williams
Duane Bradshaw
Travis Major
Erin Embrey

The PhD program core faculty is composed of tenured and tenure-track members of the Mason faculty whose primary affiliations are with the School. It also includes several members of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Departments of Psychology, Sociology, and History) and others of the Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering, College of Health and Human Services, and the School of Law. A list of the core faculty may be found in Appendix I.

The program is administered by the Political Science Doctoral Program Director and PhD Student Services. The Program Director takes the lead in proposing policy changes, and in chairing and appointing curriculum and admissions committees, making assistantship appointments, organizing comprehensive examinations, and making recommendations on Dissertation committee membership to the Chair. PhD Student Services administers the program procedures, including responding to
information requests, communicating information about requirements and changes in status to students, and tracking application and graduation forms.

The Admissions Committee, chaired by the Political Science Doctoral Program Director, will make determinations regarding admissions and the awarding of assistantships and fellowships. Decisions about whether each student has made adequate progress and may continue in the program will be made by the Faculty on a yearly basis.

The Advisor

Key to each student’s success in the program is close and continuing consultation with a member of the core faculty as advisor. This begins as soon as one enters the program. Initially, program administration assigns advisors based on students’ interests and on the need to balance the advising load among the faculty. Later the advisor typically is the faculty member who agrees to chair the student’s field research and dissertation committee, and does not have to be the person originally assigned to the student. Students may change their advisors with the agreement of both professors, provided all parties inform PhD Student Services in writing.

The advisor helps determine the student’s schedule of classes for each semester, answers general questions about the program, and guides the student in selecting a specialty and defining a research orientation. The advisor is the first point of contact for problems that may arise. Students must consult their advisors before any program changes are made and keep the advisor up-to-date on decisions regarding the program. The advisor helps the student with research skill preparation as well as with the formation of the field research and dissertation committees. In addition, the advisor serves as primary facilitator for the School’s evaluation of the student’s progress in the program. Because faculty advisors are advocates for their advisees, students should develop professional relationships with their advisors. It is to the student’s advantage to keep the advisor informed of progress and any special circumstances that arise.

Degree Plan

The Degree Plan states what courses the student is taking or has taken to fulfill his or her degree and concentration requirements. PhD students are strongly encouraged to periodically submit their Degree Plan form to both their advisor and PhD Student Services for review. The review is to ensure that the student is adhering to the requirements of the program. If a Reduction of Credits is to be applied, those credits should be included on the form. Degree Plan forms are available from PhD Student Services and are also available on the SPGIA web page here. Any changes in the plan must be documented with an amended Degree Plan form signed by the student’s advisor.

It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the requirements of the PhD program and to adhere to those requirements.
Credit for Prior Graduate Work

Students entering the PhD program with a graduate degree from George Mason or another university may be able to apply up to 30 credits toward the PhD requirements. Students should meet with PhD Student Services, to discuss any reduction of credit. The number of credits that will be accepted will be approved by the Program Director. Students and their advisor will make a recommendation to the Program Director as to how many credits should be accepted and toward which requirements they will be counted. Advisors should consider both the subject and quality of the course requirements and the quality of the student performance in the course in making decisions about prior work. Students must provide their advisor with catalog copy and syllabi for the required courses they wish to have considered for prior credit.

More than half of the 72 required credits must be taken in doctoral degree status, after admission to the degree program. Decisions by the advisor and the Admissions Committee regarding prior credit are sent to the Dean and Registrar for final approval on the Registrar’s Reduction of Credit form, a copy of which should be kept for the student in his or her file. **This should be done in the first semester to ensure that students can make appropriate course choices.** University standards for prior course credits are described in the University Catalog.

Secondary Program

Students who have been admitted after the bachelor’s degree and wish to obtain a MA in Political Science as an admitted PhD student may do so. The MA in Political Science will be a “Secondary Program”. A doctoral student must complete at least 18 hours of the MA in Political Science **AFTER** approved for the master’s degree as a secondary program.

**Please Note: The MA is a 36 credit program. Only 30 credits of the MA will apply to the PhD in Political Science.**

To apply for the MA in Political Science as a secondary program, please complete the Secondary Program application and return the form to the Graduate Coordinator. This form should be completed and submitted in your first semester of the program.

Credit Residency Requirement

The Political Science PhD program must include a minimum of 72 hours of graduate work, 42 of which must take place after admission to degree status. **Students must register with the University for every semester (excluding summers) until they have completed all degree requirements.** Students who fail to do so will be dropped from the program.

Registration

Before the beginning of each semester, students should consult with their advisors regarding course registration for the upcoming semester. Registration is the responsibility of the student. Registration for most classes takes place electronically through PatriotWeb:

[https://patriotweb.gmu.edu](https://patriotweb.gmu.edu)
Students should contact PhD Student Services regarding registration for Directed Readings Courses (GOVT796) and courses requiring special permission, e.g., GOVT998 and GOVT999 credits.

**Class Locations and Times**

Doctoral-level courses for the Political Science PhD are offered primarily on the Fairfax campus, Monday through Thursday, from 4:30pm-7:10pm or 7:20pm to 10:00pm. SPGIA also offers classes on the Arlington campus or at earlier times in the day for students’ convenience. The School reserves the right to select the time and place of each class or seminar, within the limits set by general University policies and procedures.

**Enrollment in Other Degree Programs**

In accepting admission to the PhD Program in Political Science, students certify that they are not currently enrolled in any other degree program, either at Mason or elsewhere. Further, after admission to the doctoral program, students are not permitted to enroll in any other degree program, either at Mason or elsewhere, at any time prior to graduation, resignation, or dismissal from the PhD Program in Public Policy. Violations of this policy will result in automatic dismissal, which is not subject to appeal.

**GOVT 796—Directed Readings and Research**

Prerequisites: 15 credits of GOVT courses at 500 level and above, and permission of instructor.

Directed readings courses may have 1 to 3 credits. A maximum of 6 credits of directed readings courses may be counted toward degree requirements; more than 6 credits of directed readings will not be counted for the degree. Students wishing to pursue directed readings courses in areas not covered by regular course offerings should contact PhD Student Services. The student must assign a course title and have the faculty member directing the readings approve the course (e-mail approval is acceptable). A course outline of topics to be covered and a preliminary bibliography is required, as well as a statement on evaluation procedures for the course.

Please Note: If you are only registering for GOVT796 for a semester, you must be registered by the first day of classes or you will incur a financial penalty. You must be registered for at least one class by the first day of classes.

**Time Limits**

For both full-time and part-time students enrolled in doctoral programs, whether entry is post-baccalaureate or post-master’s, the total time to degree will not exceed nine (9) calendar years from the time of first enrollment as a doctoral student. Doctoral students are expected to progress steadily toward their degree and to advance to candidacy within no more than six (6) years, although colleges may set a shorter time limit.

Students who do not meet published time limits because of compelling circumstances may petition their dean for a single extension of one calendar year at any point during their program. If such an extension is granted, the total time limit for completion of the degree will not exceed ten (10) years. Reenrollment following an absence from Mason does not change the student’s time limit, which is based on the date of
initial admission. Failure to meet the time limits or to secure approval of an extension request may result in termination from the program. Faculty and students share in the responsibility to progress toward completion of degree requirements, and faculty must be actively involved in helping students conform to the nine-year time limit.

Non-immigrant students in F-1 or J-1 status are further limited by the regulations governing their stay in the United States. The University issues visa documents (forms I-20 and DS-2019) that indicate the estimated length of the student’s academic program. Students who need extensions beyond the initial period of stay must request them through the Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS). Documentation of the compelling circumstances necessitating the extension request is required by federal regulations. For further information, please consult with an advisor in OIPS.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Graduates from the program will demonstrate superior academic skills in the field of Political Science. They will complete introductory courses in four fields of the discipline and then develop a major and minor concentration from among the fields of American Politics, International Relations, Comparative Politics, or Public Administration. By the time students reach candidacy, they are expected to possess the quantitative and/or qualitative skills to design an original research project for their doctoral dissertation. All dissertations satisfying the requirements for graduation will make an independent scholarly contribution to the academic discipline of Political Science. Students are required to present their research findings in both written and oral formats.

Assessment of Student Learning

Doctoral students and candidates are assessed in a number of ways throughout the program. Scholarly ability is evaluated through course grading in seminar-style classes, with a focus on the research projects students produce. Oral and written skills will be considered in course grading. After students have completed their coursework and demonstrated proficiency in either statistics or a foreign language, they are required to take a Comprehensive Examination in their two primary fields of specialization.

Once students have successfully passed the Comprehensive Exams they move on to the dissertation phase of the program. The first phase is the Dissertation Proposal in which the student defines a suitable problem for the dissertation. A committee of faculty will evaluate the dissertation proposal for originality, feasibility, comprehensiveness, and its likelihood to make a scholarly contribution to the field. Upon successful completion of the dissertation proposal, the student advances to candidacy and begins the dissertation. The dissertation itself will be assessed using rigorous criteria. Only research projects that make an original and positive contribution to the fundamental understanding of government and politics will be deemed to satisfy the dissertation requirement for the doctorate.
Termination

The student may be terminated from the program at the end of the first year or year and a half if the faculty feels the student has not made sufficient progress or has major academic deficiencies. In addition, the student may also be terminated if an individual member of the faculty is not willing to take full responsibility for the student’s progress at that time or if the student fails to meet other program requirements. This includes, but is not limited to failing the Comprehensive Examination twice.

The following is a list of reasons that will lead to a student’s automatic termination from the program:

- Receiving a grade of F in a single graduate level course.
- Receiving a grade of B- or below in two or more courses.
- Receiving a grade of B- or below in a single core course after the second attempt.
- Plagiarizing
- Failing the Comprehensive Examination after the second attempt.

A student who receives a grade of B- or below in a core course must retake the course. The student must retake the course during the next term in which it is offered. Should a student fail to receive a grade of B or better in the core course on the second attempt, the student is terminated automatically from the program.

A student who is terminated from the program will receive written notification from the Doctoral Program Director. The termination is effective upon receipt of this notification. The notation of academic termination is affixed to the graduate student’s official record.

Appeals of Termination

A student who is dismissed from the program for any reason other than an automatic termination described above may appeal the decision to the Dean of the School. This appeal must be in writing and must be received within 30 calendar days of the date on the notice of termination. The Dean of the School may appoint a committee to review the appeal. This committee will make a recommendation concerning the appeal, and the Dean will make a final determination. This determination cannot be appealed.

There is no appeal of academic termination from the program if such action is an automatic termination that results from a student’s failure to meet the above stated requirements. However, students are entitled to an appeal of the grade that led to the termination.

Grade Appeals

Although the individual faculty member is the best judge of student performance, there may be instances when a student disagrees with a grade or other evaluation. In such cases, the student first must ask the faculty member concerned to reconsider the grade. If the student is not satisfied, a written request for review may be made to the Dean of the School. This request must be submitted prior to the end of the drop period of the next regular session, excluding summer. The Dean of the School may dismiss the appeal as being without merit; uphold the appeal and issue a change of grade; or appoint a committee to
review the appeal. This committee will make a recommendation concerning the appeal, and the Dean will make a final determination, which cannot be appealed. Grading of the comprehensive qualifying exam and field exam is not subject to appeal.

Drops/Withdrawals

Students may be dropped from the program for failure to do any of the following:

- Carry a sufficient credit load
- Meet continuous registration requirements
- Take the qualifying examination in the required timeframe
- Resolve incomplete grades in a timely manner
- Meet conditions of provisional admission status.

Students may submit a written request to withdraw from the program to the Doctoral Program Director, who will make a recommendation to the Dean of the School. Requests for nonacademic reasons are generally accepted. The Dean reserves the right to reject any withdrawal, particularly when the student’s academic performance is in question.

Students who were dropped or have withdrawn are not permitted to enroll in any classes at George Mason University unless the Dean of the School approves their written request for reinstatement. The Dean reserves the right to deny this request, to send this request to the Admissions Committee for re-evaluation, or to place conditions upon reinstatement. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, resolution of outstanding incomplete coursework, completion of specified courses, achievement of specified grades in coursework, or meeting deadlines for taking required examinations. The Dean of the School may also require that students meet the requirements of the Student Handbook in effect at the time of reinstatement.

Leave of Absence

SPGIA does not grant a formal leave of absence from the Political Science PhD program. Students who wish to take leave from the program should write the Doctoral Program Director beforehand, explaining their circumstances. The School will evaluate each student’s situation when the student wishes to re-enroll (see below). Should a student need to withdraw mid-semester, it is critical either to complete courses or go through formal withdrawal procedures so that future enrollment may be possible.

Re-Enrollment Procedures

A student who has failed to enroll in at least one credit of coursework for two or more consecutive semesters (not including summer) at George Mason University must obtain permission to re-enroll in the program. The student should complete and submit a Graduate Re-Enrollment form to PhD Student Services. This form is available on the Registrar’s website at http://registrar.gmu.edu. The Doctoral Program Director, the student’s advisor and, when necessary, the Admissions Committee, will conduct a review of the student’s file for any academic deficiencies. If they grant the student permission to re-enroll, they will send notification to the Registrar’s office.
Courses at Other Institutions
After matriculation, students may take a maximum of 12 credits at other accredited institutions. The School must approve such coursework in advance. A student seeking approval should provide the Doctoral Program Director with a written request that includes a copy of the catalog description of the course, a syllabus for the course (or a list of topics covered in it), identification of the text(s) used in the course, and written approval of the student’s advisor/chair. Courses taken at any member institution of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area may be billed at GMU tuition rates.

The Honor Code and Professional Conduct
Mason operates under an honor system that has existed in the Commonwealth of Virginia for over 150 years. Students are responsible for understanding the provisions of the code that is described in detail in the George Mason University Catalog.

The Mason Honor Code is as follows:

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

PhD studies go hand-in-hand with participation in an academic community, and students who pursue the degree must understand and uphold the norms and values of that community. The Doctoral Program is a rigorous intellectual endeavor. Students can expect SPGIA and the university to hold them to the highest standard of scholarly conduct. Students should familiarize themselves with the “Statement of Professional Ethics” and “Statement on Plagiarism” adopted the American Association of University Professors. These statements are incorporated in the GMU Faculty Handbook, which is available on the GMU website:

http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook

As members of the academic community, students are held to these standards of professional conduct. Should disagreements between students or between a student and faculty member arise, every effort should be made to resolve these differences in a collegial manner. If this is not possible, students are responsible for taking the initiative to consult with their advisors, the Program Director, and then the Dean of the School to discuss their concerns.

SPGIA Policy on Plagiarism
The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university, as well as the field of public policy inquiry, depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus, any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the University and the purpose of the School of Policy, Government and International Affairs. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable. Plagiarism is the Use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the Use of specific
words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. It is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in termination from the program and possible termination from SPGIA. This termination will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (eg. F-1, J-1 or J-2), termination also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPGIA policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit a student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPGIA policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it.

http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/

**Funding**

The School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs attempts to provide, but does not guarantee, financial support to all new full-time political science doctoral students. Typically, this takes the form of a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GRA). Each year, the Office of the Provost publishes “Guidelines for Appointing Graduate Research and Teaching Assistants.” This document includes a number of policies and procedures defining the scope, roles, rules, and regulations governing such appointments. All assistantships assume a minimum work commitment of 20 hours per week during the academic year.

Full-time GTAs must enroll in a minimum of 6 credit hours each semester (excluding summer), and are expected to maintain high academic performance. GTAs are prohibited from having other meaningful outside employment, and may only have other GMU employment with the approval of the Dean. GTAs are encouraged to take 9 credits each semester during their first year. Appointment as a GTA does not constitute employment but rather is seen as part of one’s academic training. Therefore, the School may determine at any time to discontinue support for any individual for any reason.

The School makes decisions on funding annually. Both the sponsoring faculty member and the student’s advisor make recommendations each year regarding requests for continued support. The School typically will not renew individuals who have received any grade below a B. All assistantships include some tuition remission, depending on the availability of funding.

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Conference Support
SPGIA may award student research grants for dissertation research (e.g., expenses associated with original data collection), presentation of a paper at a discipline-appropriate conference, and other expenses related to their doctoral studies. In order to apply for funds, a student must submit a written proposal, supporting documentation, a budget, and approval from advisor or chair. The advisor or chair should email the Doctoral Program Director to indicate support for the conference as a means to move the student forward toward dissertation completion. Additional steps may be required. The student must submit all materials and have them approved prior to purchase and travel. Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis throughout the year. Details about the application process are available on the SPGIA website.

Educational Travel
The following George Mason University policy pertains to all PhD students conducting research outside the US as part of their studies with GMU.

http://globaled.gmu.edu/how/howto.html

Students pursuing independently arranged International Educational Travel experiences such as internships, independent study, service learning, or dissertation research must:

1. Register travel with the Center for Global Education;
2. Sign and file Acknowledgement of Risks and Medical Consent Form;
3. Attend any required orientations;
4. Pay applicable tuition, administrative and program fees, if any;
5. Comply with policies and procedures regarding academic advising;
6. Abide by applicable University regulations and policies, including but not limited to the University Catalog, the Code of Student Conduct, and University drug and alcohol policies; and
7. Students must purchase the University-approved travel insurance for the duration of the International Educational Travel.

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Appendix I: SPGIA Faculty

Alan J. Abramson, Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Yale University, 1990.
Nonprofit organizations; philanthropy; social entrepreneurship; collaborative governance.

Zoltan J. Acs, University Professor; Ph.D., Economics, The New School, 1980.
Globalization; entrepreneurship; philanthropy; development and liberal democracy.

Mark Addleson, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Management Economics, Graduate School of Business, University of Witwatersrand, 1993.
Organizational change; knowledge management; knowledge work; work practices; organizational networks; methodology of social inquiry; Austrian economics.

Katrin B. Anacker, Associate Professor; Ph.D., City and Regional Planning, The Ohio State University, 2006.
Housing; housing policy; urban policy; race and public policy; real estate markets; statistical methods; qualitative methods; research writing.

Enrique Desmond Arias, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2001.
Armed actors and governance; comparative politics; criminal organizations and conflict; drug trafficking; extortion, corruption, and racketeering; policing; democratization; Latin America; research methods in violent settings.

Philip E. Auerswald, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Economics, University of Washington, 1999.
Entrepreneurship; innovation; global development.

Peter J. Balint, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Environmental Policy, University of Maryland, 2000.
Environmental policy.

Jo-Marie Burt, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Columbia University, 1999.
Comparative politics; Latin America; state-society relations; political violence; transitional justice.

Ahsan I. Butt, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, University of Chicago, 2012.
Ethnicity and nationalism; international security; international relations theory; South Asia.

Kenneth J. Button, University Professor and Director, Public Policy Doctoral Program; Ph.D., Economics, Loughborough University, 1981.
Transportation economics; transport planning; economics of privatization and regulation; environmental economics; regional economics; urban economics.

Terry L. Clower, Northern Virginia Chair and Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D. Information Sciences, University of North Texas, 1997.
Regional economic development, economic and fiscal impact analysis, transportation, labor market analysis, land use planning, housing markets and policies, commercial development, community development, and economic and demographic forecasting.

James K. Conant, Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1983. Public administration; public budgeting; homeland security; environmental politics, policy, and administration.

Timothy J. Conlan, University Professor; Ph.D., Government, Harvard University, 1982. Federalism; intergovernmental relations; public policy making; Congress.

Audrey Kurth Cronin, Distinguished Service Professor; D.Phil., International Relations, University of Oxford (UK), 1985. International security; war and peace; strategy; emerging technologies; terrorism, insurgency and political violence; how conflicts end.

Kate E. N. Destler, Assistant Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D. Public Policy and Management, University of Washington, 2013. Education policy; organizational culture and change; mixed-method inquiry; performance management; public policy process; policy implementation; public management.

Desmond Dinan, Professor of Public Policy, ad personam Jean Monnet Chair; Ph.D., Modern European History, National University of Ireland, 1985. Global governance; European Union governance and institutions, history, and historiography.

Robert L. Dudley, Professor; Associate Dean; Ph.D., Political Science, Northern Illinois University, 1980. Judicial behavior; decision-making; legal processes and public policy.

Colin Dueck, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Princeton University, 2001. U.S. foreign policy; international relations; American defense policy; international security.

John S. Earle, Professor of Public Policy and Economics; Ph.D., Economics, Stanford University, 1988. Labor economics and policies; human resource practices; transition; development; corporate governance and firm performance; reallocation; industry dynamics; entrepreneurship; inequality; globalization; growth and finance; political economy; institutional economics; comparative analysis of economic policies and systems; microeconometrics; program evaluation.

Stephen S. Fuller, Dwight Schar Faculty Chair and University Professor of Public Policy and Regional Development; Ph.D., Regional Planning and Economic Development, Cornell University, 1969. Regional economic development; urban development; housing; urban planning; demographics; the Washington area’s development; economic analysis; labor force; forecasting – population, income, employment, real estate development; economic and fiscal impact analyses; economic development in developing countries.
Justin Gest, Assistant Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Government, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2010. Comparative politics; immigration and citizenship; minority political behavior; Muslim politics; Western Europe; qualitative and multi-method inquiry.

Jonathan L. Gifford, Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Civil Engineering (Transportation), University of California-Berkeley, 1983. Transportation public-private partnership policy; transportation policy, planning and finance; infrastructure policy, planning and finance; urban and metropolitan planning and land use; technology standards and public policy; transportation and regional development policy; freight transportation in megaregions; transportation governance; infrastructure banks.

Jack A. Goldstone, Virginia E. Hazel and John T. Hazel, Jr. Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Sociology, Harvard University, 1981. Revolutions and social protest; democratization; state failure and reconstruction; long-term social change; sources of economic growth; impact of global demographic change on security.

Bassam Haddad, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Georgetown University 2002. Comparative politics; political economy; Middle East politics.

David M. Hart, Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1995. Science and technology policy; U.S. public policy process; U.S. policy history, especially business, economic, and political history; international migration; entrepreneurship; global governance; manufacturing policy; energy innovation policy.

Jessica Heineman-Pieper, Assistant Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Psychology and the Conceptual Foundations of Science, The University of Chicago, 2005. Nonviolent social movements; structural violence; globalization; cultural diversity; leadership; sustainability; social and ecological justice; philosophy of the social sciences; health and research policy; conflict resolution; relocation.

Andrew Hughes Hallett, University Professor of Public Policy and Economics; D.Phil., Economics, University of Oxford (Nuffield College), 1976. Open economy macroeconomics; policy coordination and exchange rate management; monetary integration (monetary and fiscal union in Europe); political economy models; fiscal policy; monetary policy; regionalism; economic policy and institutional design; dynamic games and bargaining; risk and decisions under uncertainty; commodity markets, financial policy.

Michael Hunzeker, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, 2013. Military innovation, adaptation and emulation; bureaucratic change; non-rational forces that shape security decisions.

Mark N. Katz, Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1982. Comparative politics; revolution; Russian politics and foreign policy.
Gregory Koblentz, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2004.
International security; biological warfare; nuclear proliferation; terrorism.

Naoru Koizumii, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Environmental and Preventative Medicine, Hyogo College of Medicine, Japan, 2005, and Ph.D., Regional Science, University of Pennsylvania, 2002.
Applications of quantitative modeling and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in health and environmental policy research.

Siona Robin Listokin-Smith, Associate Professor and Director, Master of Public Policy Program; Ph.D., Business and Public Policy, University of California-Berkeley, 2007.
Public finance; political economy; corporate social responsibility; corporate governance; retirement and welfare policy.

Mariely Lopez-Santana, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, University of Michigan, 2006.
Comparative welfare states; comparative federalism (including decentralization and devolution); Europeanization; new modes of governance.

Stuart S. Malawer, Distinguished Service Professor of Law & International Trade; Ph.D., International Relations, University of Pennsylvania, 1976; Diploma, Hague Academy of International Law (Research Centre for International Law & International Relations) 1971; J.D., Cornell Law School, 1967.
U.S. trade law; U.S. & global trade politics; international trade relations; World Trade Organization; national security law & policy.

Peter Mandaville, Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, University of Kent at Canterbury, 1999.
International relations; political Islam.

John Marvel, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Public Administration, American University, 2012.
Public management issues; public sector work motivation; manager-employee relationships.

Jeremy D. Mayer, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Georgetown University, 1996.
Public opinion; racial politics; foreign policy; presidential elections; statistical methods; media politics.

Eric M. McGlinchey, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Princeton University, 2003.
Comparative politics; Eurasian politics; international political economy.

Robert J. McGrath, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, University of Iowa, 2011.
American institutions; state politics and policy; health policy, political methodology.

Connie L. McNeely, Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Sociology, Stanford University, 1990.
Culture; science and technology policy; states and society; international development; complex organizations and institutional analysis; comparative education; stratification and inequality; race, ethnicity and nation; gender; social theory.

Char R. Miller, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Johns Hopkins, 1999.
Ancient and contemporary political theory; political culture; violence and discipline.
Arnauld Nicogossian, (may serve as primary member but not as chair) Distinguished Research Professor; M.D., Tehran University, 1964; Internal Medicine and Pulmonary Medicine Fellowship, Mount Sinai Medical Center/Elmhurst City Hospital, NY; Board Certified Preventive Medicine/Aerospace Medicine, 1973. Medical and health policy; program/project management; strategic planning; biomedical and physical sciences research design; global health and preventative medicine; medical standards development and evaluation.

Sonia Ben Oughram-Gormley, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Development Economics, School of Advanced Social Sciences, Paris, 1999. International Security; Arms Control and Nonproliferation, WMD terrorism, Illicit trade, Former Soviet States; Biological weapons threats; Biodefense; Science and Technology.

James P. Pfiffner, University Professor; Political Science, Wisconsin-Madison, 1975. The presidency; Congress; national security policy process; intelligence; public administration.

Anh Pham, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Economics, University of California-San Diego, 2015. Taxation, Firm Behavior, Developing Countries.

Paul L. Posner, Professor and Director, Master of Public Administration Program; Ph.D., Political Science, Columbia University, 1995. Political science; public policy process; intergovernmental management; budgeting; tax policy.

Ramkishen S. Rajan, Professor of Public Policy and International Economic Policy; Ph.D., Economics, Claremont Graduate University, 2000. International economics (open economy macroeconomics, finance, and trade) with particular reference to Asia.

Priscilla M. Regan, Professor and Acting Senior Associate Dean; Ph.D., Political Science, Cornell University, 1981. Information and communication technologies; public policy process; privacy and surveillance, e-government.

Kenneth A. Reinert, Professor of Public Policy and Director, International Commerce and Policy Program; Ph.D., Economics, University of Maryland, 1988. International trade policy; international development policy; economic globalization.

Edward Rhodes, Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, 1985. International relations; international security; U.S. national security policy; U.S. foreign policy; U.S. naval strategy and force posture; American isolationism; identity and foreign policy.

Hilton L. Root, Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Economics and History, University of Michigan, 1983.
International economics; international finance; international development; developing nations; political economy of the design and implementation of development policy; economic policy reform; North-South relations; Asian-Pacific affairs; the sciences of complexity and institutional change.

Mark J. Rozell, Professor of Public Policy and Acting Dean; Ph.D., American Government, University of Virginia, 1987.
The presidency and separation of powers; religion and politics; media and politics.

Telecommunications policy; higher education policy; ICT diffusion in developing nations; religious/theological issues in public policy formulation; knowledge management approaches in the public sector.

Matthew Scherer, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Johns Hopkins University, 2007.
Modern and contemporary political theory; religion and politics; constitutional law.

Laurie A. Schintler, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Director, Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics Program; Ph.D., Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1995.
Critical infrastructure; transportation; quantitative methods; regional development; Geographic Information Systems (GIS); network analysis; housing market; science and innovation policy.

Louise Shelley, University Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, 1977.
Transnational crime; terrorism; corruption; human trafficking; illicit trade; Soviet successor states.

Sita Nataraj Slavov, Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Economics, Stanford University, 2003.
Public finance; economics of aging; retirement policy; Social Security and Medicare; tax policy; economic analysis of political processes.

Hugh T. Sockett, Professor; Ph.D., Philosophy of Education, University of London, 1974.
Virtue Ethics; political theory; democracy and education.

Rainer Sommer, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Enterprise Engineering; Ph.D., Software Engineering, Columbia Pacific University, 1991, and Information Technology, George Mason University, 1998.
Enterprise business systems; enterprise engineering; strategic planning; change management.

Roger R. Stough, University Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Geography and Environmental Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, 1978.
Modeling and policy in regional economic development, transport, information technology and entrepreneurship.

Jessica N. Terman, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Public Administration, Florida State University, 2012.
Contracting-out/public procurement; state/local government administration; bureaucratic policymaking and behavior; rule making.
Tojo J. Thatchenkery, Professor of Organization Development and Director, Organization Development & Knowledge Management Program; Ph.D., Organizational Behavior, Case Western Reserve University, 1994. Enhancing innovation and entrepreneurship with appreciative intelligence; creating knowledge-sharing organizational culture; change management; organizational transformation; quiet leadership; diversity and Asian American glass ceiling.

A. Trevor Thrall, Associate Professor of International Security and Director, Biodefense Program; Ph.D, Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1996. International Security; U.S. national security policy; political communication; public opinion on foreign policy and war.

Stefan Toepler, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Business and Economics, Free University of Berlin, 1995. Nonprofit management and policy; philanthropy; NGOs and global civil society; cultural policy.

Toni-Michelle C. Travis, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, University of Chicago, 1983. Race and gender issues in political participation; public administration; urban politics.

Jennifer N. Victor, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, 2003. Legislative politics; political networks; quantitative analysis.

Ming Wan, Professor of Government and International Affairs, Associate Dean; Director of the Program Faculty in Government and International Affairs; Director of Political Science Graduate Studies; Ph.D., Political Science, Harvard University, 1993. International political economy; Chinese foreign policy, Sino-Japanese relations; Asian Pacific region.

Anne L. Washington, Assistant Professor of Public Policy; Ph.D., Information Systems and Technology Management, The George Washington University, 2011. American government and politics; Congress; information policy; eGovernment/Gov 2.0; human-computer interaction; information retrieval; knowledge management; legislative studies; qualitative methods; social theory; technology management; analytics; data science; transparency.

Janine R. Wedel, University Professor; Ph.D., Anthropology, University of California- Berkeley, 1985. Shadow elites, governance and privatization of policy; corruption and the state; foreign aid; social networks; eastern Europe; anthropology of public policy.

Edmund J. Zolnik, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Economic Geography, University of Connecticut, 2004. Safe/sustainable transportation; community/regional development; multilevel modeling.
**Selected Affiliated Faculty**

**Kevin Avruch**, Henry Hart Price Professor of Conflict Resolution, Professor of Anthropology and Dean, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution; Ph.D., University of California, San Diego, 1978.

**Gregory A. Guagnano**, Associate Professor of Sociology; Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Ph.D., University of California-Davis, 1986.

**Hugh Heclo**, Robinson Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Yale University, 1970.

**John Paden**, Robinson Professor of International Studies; Ph.D., Harvard University, 1968.

**Steven Pearlstein**, Robinson Professor; BA Trinity College, 1973.

**Joseph A. Scimecca**, Professor of Sociology; Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Ph.D., New York University, 1972.

**Martin Jay Sherwin**, University Professor of History; Department of History and Art History; Ph.D., University of California-Los Angeles, 1971.
Instructional, Research, and Administrative Faculty

(May serve on committees but not as primary member or chair)

James N. Burroughs, Term Assistant Professor; JD College of William and Mary 1981.

Delton T. Daigle, Term Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Ohio State University, 2010.


Daniel Druckman, Professor; Ph.D., Social Psychology, Northwestern University, 1966.

Sheldon M. Edner, Term Full Professor and Director of the Center for Federal Management Leadership; BA, Humboldt State University, 1969; MA, Humboldt State University, 1971; Ph.D., University of California, 1973.

James H. Finkelstein, Professor of Public Policy; BS, Miami University, 1974; MA, Miami University 1977, Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1980.

Allison M. Frendak-Blume, Term Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Director, Peace Operations Policy Program; Ph.D., Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, 2004.

Salim J. Habayeb, Director of Health and Medical Policy Master’s of Science Program; SPCN Sciences 1966, University of Bordeaux; MPH, University of Michigan, 1978; MD, University of Bordeaux, 1973.

Michael V. Hayden, Distinguished Visiting Professor; M.A., Duquesne University, 1969.

Richard D. Kauzlarich, Deputy Director of the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC); BA, Valparaiso University, 1966; MA, Indiana University, 1967; MA, University of Michigan, 1976.

Todd M. La Porte, Term Associate Professor; Ph.D., Political Science, Yale University, 1989.

Christine Pommerening, Research Assistant Professor; Ph.D., George Mason University, 2004.

Charles Robb, Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy; J.D., University of Virginia, 1973.

Frank Shafroth, Research Professor and Director of the State and Local Government Leadership Center; BA, Stanford University, 1970; JD, Georgetown University, 1984.

Bonnie Stabile, Research Assistant Professor and Assistant Director, Center for the Study of International Medical Policies and Practices (CSIMPP); Ph.D., Public Policy, George Mason University, 2006.
Laura Walker, Term Assistant Professor; J.D., University of Toledo College of Law, 1977, and Ph.D., Public Policy, George Mason University, 2012.

Matthys van Schaik, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Ph.D., University of South Carolina, 1995.
Appendix II: Course Descriptions

**GOVT 500 Research Methods in Political Science**
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). Focus is on sound and rigorous research design.

**GOVT 510 American Politics and Government**
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 511 Problem Solving and Data Analysis I** *(prerequisite: passing grade on screening exam)*
Introduces fundamental statistical and quantitative techniques for analyzing social science data rigorously and soundly. Focuses on problem definition, research design, and problem solving under conditions of uncertainty in political science.

**GOVT 520 Political Theory**
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. Within this context, students will look at concepts and approaches, as well as important theories and debates that characterize the subfield. Helps prepare students for qualifying exams in comparative 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. Within this context, students will look at concepts and approaches, as well as important theories and debates that characterize the subfield. Helps prepare students for qualifying exams in comparative politics.

**GOVT 540 International Relations**
Focuses on changing structure of international politics, post-Cold War security issues, effect of globalized economy and information technology revolution, enhanced role of global corporations and nongovernmental organizations, and rise of nonsecurity issues in emerging international agenda.

**GOVT 541 Introduction to Critical Analysis and Strategic Response to Terrorism**
Introduces terrorism as a complex threat to human security. Focuses on tools for analyzing terrorism and the underlying sources and conditions that contribute to it. Considers similarities and differences between terrorism and other threats to human security. Explores the lessons learned in the history of responding to terrorism. Focuses not only on different tactics of response, but also includes how different types of societies (dictatorship, democracies, etc.) have responded to terrorism and what the results of those responses have been. Includes case studies of responses to terrorism.

**GOVT 550 Public Administration** – *(prerequisite GOVT 510)*
Reviews the theoretical traditions in American public administration, from the earliest days of the founding to the present. Concludes with consideration of contemporary theoretical debates over the proper role of public administrators and controversies about conflicting demands made on the public service and the public sector.

**GOVT 603 Seminar in the Courts and Constitutional Law**
Analyzes role, influence, and effects of US courts in creating constitutional legal norms and interpreting them. Special attention to First and Fourteenth Amendments and Commerce Clause. Lecture and discussion; students expected to read and analyze leading court cases.

**GOVT 604 Seminar on Congress and Legislative Behavior** – (prerequisite GOVT 510)
Examines theories and empirical research on the US Congress and legislative behavior, including elections, representation, structures, and processes. Also examines Congress’ impact on the design and implementation of public policy, interactions with other branches of government, and comparisons with parliamentary systems.

**GOVT 605 Seminar on the Presidency** – (prerequisite GOVT 510)
Examines the American presidency from a number of substantive and methodological perspectives. Readings and discussions in the course appraise the presidency within the system and focus on the role the presidency plays in formulating and implementing public policy.

**GOVT 631 Seminar in Comparative Politics and Institutions**
Examines theories and practices of governance, development, and conflict resolution in comparative national settings. Course explores key subsets of the comparative politics literature in depth, including institutional change, regime types and transitions, democracy and authoritarianism, states and state-society relations, revolution, social movements, political cultures, and methods. Course is explicitly conceptual and cross-regional. Students may take up to 3 unique sections of 631.

**GOVT 640 Strategic Responses to Terrorism: Coordinated Decision Making** – (corequisite GOVT 541)
Revisits, expands, and examines the critical themes developed in the terrorism certificate program. Provides students with the opportunity to apply the theoretical concepts developed in practice. Integrates the ideas, theories, and practices considered in this track within the larger field of terrorism analysis and strategic responses to this threat.

**GOVT 641 Global Governance** – (prerequisite GOVT 510)
Applies systems approach to understanding global politics. Emphasizes properties and functions of global systems such as population, food, disease, energy, and trade, and how world’s political systems interact with them. Discusses how governance at municipal, national, and international levels affected by global systems. Examines role of nongovernmental organizations in global affairs.

**GOVT 706 Seminar in Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations** – (prerequisite GOVT 510)
Examines broad trends in governance, including theory and practice of federal, state, and local governments. May include privatization, devolution, mandating, regulatory reform, and comprehensive federalism reform.
GOVT 712 Problem Solving and Data Analysis II – (prerequisite GOVT 500 and 511 or permission of instructor)

Advanced techniques and skills for solving policy-related problems or analyzing political data. Focuses on data gathering and analysis, Use of statistical software, and multivariate analysis.

GOVT 717 Advanced Seminar in Qualitative Methods – (prerequisite GOVT 511 or permission of instructor)

Focuses on scientific design of qualitative research questions and Use of specific qualitative methods in scientific analysis. Covers when and how to Use qualitative research methods to answer empirical questions in political science; primary data collection methods (interviews, observations, document review); the appropriateness of different research approaches; procedural and ethical concerns that may arise in Use of qualitative methods.

GOVT 719 Issues in American Politics – (prerequisite GOVT 510)

Examines significant issue in American politics and political behavior. Analyzes topic of contemporary and emerging concern.

GOVT 725 Democratic Theory and Democratization

Examines democracy in terms of versions of liberalism, theories of social capital and civic participation, and discourses about civil, political, and human rights. How is democracy conceptualized normatively and empirically? What underlying economic, social, and cultural conditions promote democracy? What role do institutions play in creating and sustaining a stable democratic society? Takes a broadly comparative perspective, focusing on variety of established and emerging democracies around the world. Elective for students specializing in American government or international politics and comparative governments.

GOVT 725 Theories of Justice

Overview of ancient and modern theories of justice with application to contemporary issues involving justice system and other social and political institutions.

GOVT 731 Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics – (prerequisite GOVT 530)

Assumes basic proficiency in comparative analysis. Regionally based examination of key debates in the comparative politics field. Key theoretical and methodological debates are addressed through in depth examination of regional political processes. Regions include Latin America, Asia, Middle East, European Union, Africa, and Russia. Students may take up to 2 unique sections of 731.

GOVT 732 Comparative Justice – (prerequisite CRIM 700/ GOVT 726, or permission of instructor)

Survey of justice systems and their environments in different lands and cultures. Identifies commonalities and differences among justice systems, evaluates them, and considers policy implications.

GOVT 733 Islam and Politics

Provides an overview and understanding of the multifaceted nature of political Islam in the contemporary world. Covers brief history of Islam, formation of modern states in the post-colonial Muslim world, nature of contemporary Islamic radicalism and militancy and the future of Islamism.

GOVT 734 Democratization
Examines concepts and concrete cases of democratization and cases where democratization is absent or incomplete. Investigates methods for measuring democracy and authoritarianism; the role state and society play in political change; the effects religion, the military, ethnic division, and technology have on government reform; and the extent to which international actors can encourage democratization.

**GOVT 735 Comparative Public Management**
Examines the comparative decision environments for public managers and policy elites in the OECD countries generally, focusing on four models: 1) Franco-Japanese model, 2) German concentration model, 3) “Anglo-Saxon” (United States) model, 4) Chinese model.

**GOVT 739 Issues in Comparative and International Politics** – *(prerequisite GOVT 540)*  
Explores issues of contemporary and emerging concern in comparative and international politics.

**GOVT 741 Advanced Seminar in International Politics** – *(prerequisite GOVT 540)*  
Examines theoretical and methodological issues central to study of international relations by focusing on specific topic: American foreign policy, diplomacy, international law and organization, international relations theory, international ethics, human rights and humanitarian intervention, the environment, and others. Students may take up to 3 unique sections of 741.

**GOVT 742 International Negotiation**  
Examines frameworks and perspectives that have guided scholarly work on negotiation. Students will analyze complex cases of negotiations in the areas of security, trade, and the environment, and practice negotiating key security and environmental issues on the agendas of nations and international organizations.

**GOVT 743 International Political Economy** *(prerequisite GOVT 343 or equivalent)*  
Examines interplay of international politics and economics. Discusses theoretical perspectives and analytical tools in academic field of international political economy, and applies theories and tools to trade, investment, exchange rates, development, regionalization, and globalization. Explores how international economic and political forces increasingly shape domestic interests, and how domestic politics affect international political economy. Lecture, discussion.

**GOVT 744 Foundations of Security Studies**  
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a selection of the original sources of the most important ideas that form the basis of security studies as a subfield of political science.

**GOVT 745 International Security** *(prerequisite Govt. 540)*  
Examines interplay of international politics and international security. Discusses theoretical perspectives and analytical tools in academic field of international security, and applies theories and tools to nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, strategy and defense, and arms control. How domestic issues affect defense policies, terrorism, changing nature of international conflict, and human security will be examined.

**GOVT 753 Seminar in Third Party Governance**
Examines design and management of government programs that rely on other levels of government and the private sector for delivery, with focus on such governmental tools as contracts, grants, loans, regulation, and tax credits.

GOVT 755 Seminar in Politics and Bureaucracy – (prerequisite GOVT 510)
Explores research and theory on political causes and effects of actions of government bureaucratic agencies. Readings examine origins of agencies, influences on decisions and programs, sources of internal and external accountability, pathologies of bureaucracies, and contributions bureaucracies make on effective and just governance.

GOVT 758 Homeland Security: Transportation Security Administration
Examines the terrorist attacks of 9/11, vulnerabilities of the aviation security at that time, failure of elected officials and administrators to act more decisively to improve security before 9/11, and the policy and administrative responses to the 9/11 attacks, including the creation of the Transportation Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security. Includes the development of radical Islam and the rise of Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda.

GOVT 759 Issues in Public Administration and Management
Current issues in administration and management of public organizations in contemporary American government. Includes practical applications of theories and analysis to managerial problems. Emphasizes competence in improving management in selected government settings.

GOVT 794 Internship (prerequisite – 12 credits in MA political science program)
Work-study program with specific employers. Credit is determined by the division. Contact internship coordinator one semester before enrollment.

GOVT 796 Directed Readings and Research (prerequisite: 15 credits of GOVT courses at 500 level and above, and permission of instructor)
Reading and research on a specific topic under the direction of a faculty member. Written paper is required.

GOVT 798 Political Science Research Project (3 credits) – (prerequisite 24 credits)
Research project related to student's concentration under supervision of a faculty advisor. Student produces substantial and original contribution to political science knowledge on model of article in scholarly journal.

GOVT 799 Thesis Guidance (6 credits) – (prerequisite: 24 credits, and approval of thesis proposal)
Substantial and original research paper with guidance of faculty advisor. Thesis proposal must be approved in advance by advisor and two faculty members who comprise thesis committee. Completed research must be approved by committee and defended publicly in oral presentation.

GOVT 800 PhD Research Seminar (3 credits)
This course provides an opportunity for PhD students in political science to present and refine their own independent research, and to further improve their understanding of social scientific method as they prepare for conference presentations, qualifying exams, and subsequent dissertations. 
Controlled enrollment – permission of instructor required.

GOVT 810 American Political Development – (prerequisite GOVT 510)
Advanced graduate-level seminar on historical roots of American politics. Examines political culture and historical development of US institutions, and how laws and programs have been affected by historical and cultural development.

**GOVT 811 Advanced Seminar in American Institutions** – *(prerequisite GOVT 510)*
Advanced graduate-level seminar on specific topics of contemporary research and theory in American governmental institutions. Topics vary to include presidential politics, Congress, and politics of the judiciary. Readings include classic and contemporary literature. Seminar format with discussion, student presentations.

**Government 815: Advanced Seminar in Political Behavior**– *(prerequisite GOVT 510)*
Advanced graduate-level seminar on specific topics of contemporary research and theory in American political behavior. Topic varies to include political parties, electoral politics, public opinion and voting behavior, interest groups, and lobbying. Readings include classic and contemporary literature. Seminar format with discussion, student presentations.

**GOVT 820 Advanced Topics in Political Thought** – *(prerequisite GOVT 520)*
Advanced graduate-level seminar on topics of contemporary research and theory in political thought. Topics vary to include political ideologies, feminist theory, and political theory. Seminar format with discussion, student presentations.

**GOVT 831 Research Seminar in Regional Political Culture and Development** – *(prerequisite GOVT 540)*
Advanced graduate-level seminar on theories of political culture and economic development applied to Middle East, Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Debates economic growth and development from broad and rigorous analytical base.

**GOVT 833 European Union and Political Integration** *(prerequisites: GOVT 540 and 631)*
Advanced graduate-level seminar on European integration and theories of international organizations. Examines evolution of European Union and other international organizations, such as NATO, which have brought most European states together since end of World War II.

**GOVT 841 Ethics and Human Rights in International Affairs** *(prerequisite GOVT 540)*
Seminar on ethical behavior in an international system in which consensus about ethical matters is absent. Overarching themes are distributive justice, human rights, and Use of force. Students develop, apply, and justify their own perspective on an ethical problem Using ethical theory and social science research.

**GOVT 843 Diplomacy** – *(prerequisite GOVT 540)*
Advanced graduate seminar on theory and practice of diplomacy; alliance construction and destruction; coercive and cooperative diplomacy; diplomacy of certain great powers such as America, Russia, China, France, and Japan, and small and revolutionary powers. Also examines diplomacy and the media, and day-to-day diplomacy.

**GOVT 850 Advanced Seminar in Public Administration Research and Theory** – *(prerequisite GOVT 510, 650)*
Advanced Seminar focuses on a topic of central concern in contemporary public administration research and theory. The content of the seminar will vary, but will include such topics as organizing for homeland security, managerial and political effects of e-government, or the application of principal-agency models in public management.

**GOVT 851 Seminar in Theories of Organization and Bureaucracy**
Examines key issues in organization theory and behavior. Issues include organization design; interorganizational coordination, intelligence and decision making systems; leadership and motivation theories; and theories or organizations as agents of political and social change. Uses case studies.

**GOVT 852 Seminar in Political Leadership** – *(prerequisite GOVT 510)*
Graduate seminar on theories and practices of political and governmental leadership in American and comparative settings. Domestic and comparative cases of leadership in state-building, presidency, and public administration. Primary or secondary research on leaders encouraged.

**GOVT 853 Advanced Seminar in Global Innovations in Public Finance**
Explores how financial decisions by government jurisdictions are affected by global competition and global markets. The impact of cross-national movements of capital and information on tax, tariff, and interest rate policies will be examined, as will the numerous organizations, such as the World Bank, that have been created to reduce the impact on developing nations. Government and supernalational efforts to deal with the unintended consequences and global capital flows will also be examined.

**GOVT 998 – Doctoral Dissertation Proposal** – *(prerequisite Advancement to Candidacy)*
Work research proposal that forms basis for doctoral dissertation.
Prerequisites: To qualify for registration, the student must first have passed the Qualifying Exams and identified the Chair of the Dissertation Committee.

**GOVT 999 – Doctoral Dissertation Research** – *(prerequisite Approval of Dissertation Proposal)*
Research on approved dissertation topic under direction of dissertation committee.
Appendix III: Forms

1. Degree Plan
2. Dissertation Committee
3. Change of Dissertation Committee
4. Statement of Readiness for Proposal Defense
5. Dissertation Proposal Defense

These and other Forms can be found online here.
School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs
Education Plan for PhD in Political Science
Effective Fall 2015

Student: _____________________________________ G#: __________________________

Advisor: _____________________________________

Advisor Signature: ___________________________ Date/Update: ___________________

Advisor Signature: ___________________________ Date/Update: ___________________

Advisor Signature: ___________________________ Date/Update: ___________________

Advisor Signature: ___________________________ Date/Update: ___________________

Foundation Courses – 9 credits from the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Anticipated Semester/Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 510 American Government &amp; Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 520 Political Theory</td>
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<td>GOVT 530 Comparative Politics</td>
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<td>GOVT 540 International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 550 Public Administration</td>
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Major Field Courses Minimum of 21 credits of advanced courses divided between two major fields (American government and politics, public administration, international relations, or comparative politics). Students should define a specialization within the major with their advanced courses e.g. Presidency within American government and politics. Students select advanced seminars with the approval of their advisor.

Advanced Major Field Seminars

| Major Field Specialization: ____________________________ |

Field Seminars for American government and politics (2 of the following 4 seminars are required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar Title</th>
<th>Anticipated Semester/Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 603 Seminar in the Courts and Constitutional Law</td>
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<td>GOVT 604 Seminar in Congress and Legislative Behavior</td>
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<td>GOVT 605 Seminar on the Presidency</td>
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<td>GOVT 706 Seminar in Federalism &amp; Intergov. Relations</td>
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Field Seminars for Comparative Politics (the following 2 seminars are required)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar Title</th>
<th>Anticipated Semester/Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 631 Seminar in Comparative Politics &amp; Institutions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 731 Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics</td>
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</table>

Field Seminars for the International Relations (2 of the following 4 seminars are required)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 641 Global Governance</td>
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<td>GOVT 741 Advanced Seminar in International Relations</td>
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<td>GOVT 743 International Political Economy</td>
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<td>GOVT 745 International Security</td>
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Field Seminars in Public Administration (the following 2 seminars are required)

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<tr>
<th>Seminar Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 753 Seminar in Third Party Governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVT 755 Seminar in Politics and Bureaucracy</td>
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Minor Field Course (9 credits of advanced course work in a third field)
Minor Field: ________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

**Advanced Methodology Courses** (9 credits to include GOVT 500 and GOVT 511, and one other course in quantitative or qualitative methods. The last of the three methodology courses should be tailored to the student’s dissertation research needs. Language coursework and proficiency may count as the third methodology course work with approval on the education plan form.)

GOVT 500 Research Methods (required) ____________________________________________

GOVT 511 Problem Solving and Data Analysis I (required) _____________________________

Prerequisite for 511 – taking and passing a statistics screening exam.

Adv. Methodology Course _______________________________________________________

**Electives** (0 – 12 credits)

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

**Qualifying Exams:**

GOVT 998 Dissertation Proposal  (3 minimum; 6 credits maximum) _________________

___________________________________________________________________________

GOVT 999 Dissertation Guidance: Students may apply to this degree a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 credits of 998 and a minimum of 6 credits of 999. They apply a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 24 dissertation credits (998 and 999 combined) to the degree. A minimum of 3 credits per semester must be enrolled until 12 total combined credits. May register for one credit a semester only thereafter.
George Mason University
School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs
Political Science Comprehensive Exam Application

Student Name: __________________________ Date: __________________

G Number: ____________________________ Handbook Year: __________________

Major Fields

Please identify your two major fields:

☐ American Government  ☐ International Relations
☐ Comparative Politics  ☐ Public Administration

Coursework and Degree Plan

A review of your coursework must be completed before you are approved to take the comprehensive qualifying exam. Please make the necessary updates to your degree plan and include a current version with this application.

☐ Current degree plan attached

Committee Chair

After passing the comprehensive exam and before registering for GOVT998 proposal credits, students must identify a faculty member to serve as dissertation committee chair. The faculty member must indicate in writing a willingness to serve in this capacity. If you have already identified a committee chair, please specify here.

Dissertation Committee Chair: ______________________________________

☐ Tentative  ☐ Confirmed in writing (documentation attached)

Please return this form to Shannon Williams, SPGIA PhD Student Services.

Comprehensive Examination Application Approved by:

Director,
PhD Student Services ___________________________ ___________________________ ___________________________
Name Signature Date
George Mason University

School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs

Dissertation Committee

Student’s Name: ____________________________________ Date: ____________________________

Program:  □ Biodefense    □ Political Science    □ Public Policy

Tentative Dissertation Title: __________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

The following professors have agreed to serve on my dissertation committee:

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Approved By:

Assistant Dean
Program Management ________________ ___________________________ ______

PhD Program Director ________________ ___________________________ ______

SPGIA Dean ________________ ___________________________ ______

Please return this form to SPGIA PhD Student Services.
George Mason University

School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs

Change of Dissertation/Field Committee Member

Student’s Name: __________________________ Date: __________________________

Program: □ Biodefense □ Political Science □ Public Policy

Tentative Title: _______________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Name                                Signature                          Date
Chair                                 ______________________  ____________________  ______
Leaving Committee                     ______________________  ____________________  ______
Joining Committee                     ______________________  ____________________  ______
Leaving Committee                     ______________________  ____________________  ______
Joining Committee                     ______________________  ____________________  ______

Approved By:

Assistant Dean
Program Management ______________________  ____________________  ______

PhD Program Director ______________________  ____________________  ______

SPGIA Dean                            ______________________  ____________________  ______

Please return this form to SPGIA PhD Student Services.
George Mason University

School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs

Statement of Readiness for Proposal Defense

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Date of Defense: _______________________

Program: □ Biodefense □ Political Science □ Public Policy

This form needs to be signed and submitted at least 15 days prior to the scheduled defense.

I have read the draft dissertation proposal as titled below and it is of sufficient quality for proceeding to the oral defense.

Tentative Title: _________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

Committee Members:

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I have received a draft copy of the document named above.

Director, PhD Student Services ________________________________________________

Signature ___________________________ Date __________

Please return this form to SPGIA PhD Student Services.
George Mason University

School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs

Dissertation Proposal Defense

This is to certify that this student has successfully defended his/her dissertation proposal.

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Date of Defense: ______________________

Program: □ Biodefense □ Political Science □ Public Policy

Title: _________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Name       Signature       Date

Chair       ___________________________ ___________________________ ______

Member      ___________________________ ___________________________ ______

Member      ___________________________ ___________________________ ______

Member      ___________________________ ___________________________ ______

Member      ___________________________ ___________________________ ______

Approved By:

PhD Program Director ___________________________ ___________________________ ______

SPGIA Dean       ___________________________ ___________________________ ______

I have received a copy of the dissertation proposal.

Director, PhD Student Services       ___________________________ ___________________________ ______

Signature       Date

Please return this form to SPGIA PhD Student Services.
George Mason University
School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs

Oral Dissertation Defense Readiness

Student’s Name: ________________________________ Date of Defense: _________________

Program: ☐ Biodefense ☐ Political Science ☐ Public Policy

Dissertation Title: _______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

We certify that this student is prepared to orally defend his/her dissertation.

Committee Members:

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