

SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT

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Administration

- Mark J. Rozell, Dean
- Doug Goldstein, Senior Associate Dean for Administration
- Naoru Koizumi, Associate Dean for Research and Grants
- Ming Wan, Associate Dean
- Jill V. Deering, Senior Assistant Dean for Student and Academic Affairs
- Elizabeth Eck Olchowski, Senior Assistant Dean for Strategy
- Ann M. Ludwick, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs
- Silva Pecini Morris, Assistant Dean, Graduate Student Services
- Shannon Williams, Assistant Dean for Student Engagement

College Code: PP

The Schar School of Policy and Government prepares students to be leaders in advancing the public good across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Through a combination of rigorous academic programs and hands-on research opportunities, the Schar School equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to address complex policy challenges at the regional, national, and global levels.

Schar School faculty integrate original research with real-world expertise, bridging theory and practice for the benefit of students and society. The school boasts more than 80 full-time faculty members across a range of disciplines, including political science, public administration, international relations, economics, management, sociology, anthropology, and law.

As a major research unit of George Mason University, the Schar School secures approximately \$25 million in sponsored funding annually. Faculty members frequently advise governments, corporations, and nonprofit organizations, appear in national and international media, and contribute to public discourse on pressing policy issues.

Undergraduate Programs

The Schar School offers three degrees for students interested in political science, government, law, and international relations: a Bachelor of Arts in Government and International Politics (<https://schar.gmu.edu/programs/undergraduate/government-and-international-politics/>), a Bachelor of Arts in International Security and Law (<https://schar.gmu.edu/programs/undergraduate/ba-international-security-and-law/>), and a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration (<https://schar.gmu.edu/programs/undergraduate/public-administration-bs/>). Additionally, in collaboration with the School of Computing, the Schar School offers a Bachelor of

Science in Applied Computer Science with a concentration in Technology Policy. (<https://schar.gmu.edu/programs/undergraduate/technology-policy-concentration/>)

The curriculum is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of political institutions, governance, security, and policy analysis. Students majoring in Government and International Politics study American political institutions, comparative politics, and international relations. They may choose to concentrate in areas such as American institutions and processes, law, international political economy, public policy, international relations, political analysis, or the interdisciplinary Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (<https://ppe.gmu.edu/>) program.

Those pursuing the International Security and Law major focus on topics including security policy, diplomacy, global security issues, and domestic and international law.

The public administration and policy major prepares students with expertise in government management, policy implementation, economics, and administration across sectors. Concentrations options include administration and management, economic policy analysis, international political economy, nonprofit management, public policy, and U.S. government institutions.

Students have the opportunity to gain real-world experience through internships, which allow them to earn academic credit while working in government agencies, think tanks, nonprofit organizations, law firms, and international institutions. Additionally, the Schar School offers residential and non-residential learning communities where students can engage in networking events with high-profile speakers, participate in study-abroad opportunities, and conduct research projects with faculty mentors.

Minors

The Schar School offers minors in American Government, International and Comparative Studies, International Security, Legal Studies, and Public Policy and Management. In partnership with other Mason units, the Schar School offers four joint minors, including Government Analytics (with the College of Science), Global Systems (with CHSS), Urban and Suburban Studies (with CHSS), and Political Communication (with the Department of Communication). Faculty from the Schar School contribute to interdisciplinary minors across the University in Asia-Pacific and Northeast Asian Studies, Latin American Studies, Middle East Studies, Islamic Studies, and Sustainable Systems Engineering. The Schar School also collaborates with the Philosophy Department to offer the Political Philosophy minor.

Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Programs

The Schar School offers an accelerated pathway for qualified undergraduate students to earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree, potentially within five years. Accepted students take graduate-level courses during their undergraduate studies, expediting the completion of their master's degree. More details on available programs and the application process can be found on the Schar School website. The school also offers a joint JD/MPP degree in partnership with the Antonin Scalia Law School, integrating law and public policy studies.

Graduate Programs

Detailed information about the Schar School's three doctoral programs, seven master's degree programs, and eleven graduate certificate

programs is available under the "Programs" section of this catalog. In addition, the Schar School of Policy and Government, in collaboration with the Antonin Scalia Law School, offers a joint Juris Doctor and Master of Public Policy (JD/MPP) degree program that integrates the study of law and public policy. Further information about this joint program can be found on the Schar School's website (http://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/degrees/jd_mpp/).

Research Centers

The Schar School of Policy and Government's research centers focus on a wide range of issues and areas.

Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACEI)

Director: Faye Taxman, PhD

This center conducts public policy research to improve outcomes from the justice and health systems while advancing scientific knowledge about effective interventions, successful implementation and high performing organizations. Center faculty and students design and conduct original research that addresses key policy questions, and improves methodologies for conducting studies in justice and health settings and translating evidence into practice. ACEI is an active, engaged research center serving Virginia, the nation, and the world.

Center for Advancing Human-Machine Partnership Center (CAHMP)

Co-Director: J. P. Singh, PhD

The center's mission is to leverage artificial intelligence and emerging technologies to address societal challenges and improve lives through responsible, human-centered innovation. Center researchers focus on several areas, including AI policy and regulation, responsible AI, educational policy and technology, human-computer interaction, natural language processing, community informatics, and assistive technology.

Center for Biomedical Science and Policy (CBSP)

Co-Directors: Naoru Koizumi, PhD, and James Olds, PhD

The center aims to advance research in the intersection of: i) biomedicine/healthcare, ii) bioinformatics and other big data analytics; and iii) medical/health policies. The mission of the proposed research center is to bring together like-minded research faculty with different backgrounds including biology, medicine, biostatistics/informatics, mathematical modeling and big-data analytics to perform cutting-edge research with direct policy relevance.

Center for Business Civic Engagement (CBCE)

Director: David Rehr, PhD

This center conducts research on a wide range of topics revolving on how public institutions can utilize private sector tools to be more effective and efficient in their missions. The focus of the center revolves around government financial transparency, government accountability, civic engagement, and best practices in business advocacy so government can make informed decisions on public policy.

Center for Energy Science and Policy

Director: Richard Kauzlarich, MA

This center, a joint initiative of the School of Business and the Schar School, provides objective analysis of key issues in the energy field that is grounded in original research. It serves as a center of gravity for the many researchers at George Mason whose work engages them with these issues and connects them with decision-makers in the economy, society, and government.

Center for Microeconomic Policy Research (CMEPR)

Director: John Earle, PhD

This center is a forum for policy-relevant research using micro-economic and micro-econometric methods.

Center on Nonprofits, Philanthropy, and Social Enterprise

Director: Alan Abramson, PhD

This center is dedicated to deepening the understanding and improving the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations, philanthropy, and social enterprises through research, public education, training, and other activities that engage those who care about these important institutions and activities.

Center for Regional Analysis

Director: Terry Clower, PhD

This center is the clearinghouse for economic data and forecasts specific to the Washington, D.C. region. Its fiscal analyses, economic indicators, demographic studies, information services, and data products are relied on by business and government executives as they seek to stimulate investment and development and spur enterprise in Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C., and suburban Maryland.

Center for Security Policy Studies

Director: Ellen Laipson, MA

Today's security challenges—from proliferation and terrorism to climate change and cyber security—are beyond the scope of any one nation-state to address. Finding solutions requires international and multi-lateral cooperation among regional and global leaders, both state-based and outside the state, including corporate and non-governmental actors. The purpose of the Center for Security Policy Studies is to strengthen global strategic thinking by current and future policy-makers, so as to improve US and global security in the 21st century.

Center for Study of Social Change, Institutions, and Policy (SCIP)

Director: Jack Goldstone, PhD

This center conducts research on a wide range of global policy issues. Center faculty undertake basic academic research on such topics as foreign trade, democratization and state-building, and transnational networks, and analyze specific policy issues for a variety of government agencies.

Center for Infrastructure Public-Private Partnership

Director: Jonathan L. Gifford, PhD

The center is devoted to advancing the objective consideration of public-private partnerships for transportation system renewal and expansion through research, education and public service.

Gender and Policy Center

Director: Bonnie Stabile, PhD

This center addresses a compelling area of interest in the fields of public policy and politics, and offers the opportunity for the Schar School to develop and promote its expertise in a field where scholarship, like its subject, is underrepresented and sorely needed.

Michael V. Hayden Center for Intelligence, Policy, and International Security

Director: Larry Pfeiffer, M.A.

The threats to global security have rarely ever been so great in scope and number—in such a complex, complicated world, intelligence has never been more vital. The Michael V. Hayden Center for Intelligence, Policy, and International Security at the Schar School for Policy and Government provides for the full examination of intelligence and its interplay with US national security.

Stephen S. Fuller Institute for Research on the Washington Region's Economic Future

Director: Terry Clower, PhD

Through consistent monitoring of regional issues and the economy, the institute is able to identify critical conditions and trends impacting the future vitality of the Washington region's economy. Regularly communicating these findings and producing timely research on short- and long-term regional policy options ensure local business and government leaders are equipped with the data needed to make informed decisions regarding the region's future.

Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center

Co-Director: Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, PhD; Naoru Koizumi, PhD; Janine Wedel, PhD

The Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC) is the first center in the United States devoted to understanding the links among terrorism, transnational crime and corruption. The center teaches, researches and formulates policy on these critical issues. TraCCC accomplishes its mission through international research partnerships engaging in fundamental and applied research projects. Research addresses such diverse concerns as national security, economic development and human rights.

Faculty

School Faculty

Professors

Abramson, Anacker, Auerswald, Clower, Correa-Cabrera, Dinan, Dueck, Earle, Gest, Gifford, Goldstone, Hu, Katz, Koizumi, Kugler, Mandaville, Mayer, McNeely, Olds, Reinert, Root, Rozell, Singh, Slavov, Taxman, Thatchenkery, Wan, Wedel

Associate Professors

Burt, Butt, Haddad, Hunzeker, Kim, Koblenz, Listokin, Lopez-Santana, Maclean, McGlinchey, McGrath, Miller, Núñez, Ouaghrham-Gormley, Pham, Scherer, Schintler, Terman, Thrall, Toepler, Victor, Zhang K., Zolnik

Assistant Professors

Berk, Garrity, Guenther, Kuo, Monroe-White, Rodriguez, Zhang F.

Research and Term Faculty

Burroughs, Daigle, Deitz, Edner, El-Shazli, Hayden, Holton, Kauzlarich, Laipson, LaPorte, Martin, Rehr, Richter, Shark, Stabile, Wilde

Requirements & Policies

Policies for Undergraduate Students

Students should become familiar with the university's Academic Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/>) in addition to those specific to each academic unit.

The undergraduate degree consists of coursework in four areas: (a) Mason Core requirements, (b) School requirements for the Schar school, (c) requirements specified for the chosen major, and (d) electives. All students must complete 120 credits, of which at least 45 must be in upper-level courses (numbered 300 and above). At least one course at the 300 or 400 level must be designated "writing intensive." In Schar, GOVT 490 Synthesis Seminar (Mason Core) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) or GOVT 491 Honors Seminar (Mason Core) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) will satisfy this requirement.

The School requirements, (b) above, are the same as the additional requirements for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. These only apply for the BA in Government and International Politics, which requires one class in Philosophy or Religion, one additional class in social and behavioral science, one class in non-Western culture, and demonstrated foreign language proficiency at the intermediate level. Students should consult the Mason Core (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) and CHSS requirements page (<http://chss.gmu.edu/general-education/all-requirements/>) for more detailed information. The BA in International Security and Law only requires the additional requirement of a demonstrated foreign language proficiency at the intermediate level.

All students are responsible for meeting with their academic advisor, and reviewing their transcripts and degree audits regularly to ensure that they are correct and meet all their requirements. Transfer students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisor prior to registering for classes to review their transcripts and course equivalencies. In some cases, students may need to earn more than 120 credits to complete all of their requirements.

Excluded Courses and Credits

At most 3 credits of 100-level Recreation (RECR) activity courses may be taken for general elective credit for an undergraduate degree in the Schar School of Policy and Government.

Only Military Science (MLSC) courses at the 400-level can be used for credit for a degree in the School; credit for other MLSC courses may not be applied toward a degree in the School.

Once matriculated at Mason, students may not take CLEP exams and apply credits from those exams to degrees in the School. Students may apply credits from CLEP exams to degrees in the School only if those credits were awarded and reported prior to admission.

Students with questions about exceptions to academic policies and about School requirements should contact the Schar Undergraduate Student Services Team (<https://schar.gmu.edu/programs/academic-advising-student-services/undergraduate-student-services/undergraduate-student/>).

Additional policy information and forms are available on the Schar website (<https://schar.gmu.edu/programs/academic-advising-student-services/undergraduate-student-services/undergraduate-academic/>).

Honors in the Major

Highly qualified students majoring in Government and International Politics and Public Administration may pursue advanced work leading to graduation with honors in the major. Those students selected for participation in this program take a two-course sequence: GOVT 491 Honors Seminar (Mason Core) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason->

core/) and GOVT 496 Directed Readings and Research. To graduate with honors in the major, students must complete these courses with a minimum GPA of 3.50.

Policies for Graduate Students

Students should become familiar with the university's Academic Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/>) in addition to those specific to each academic unit.

Graduate Student Appeal and Grievance Procedures

Graduate student appeal and grievance procedures are based on George Mason University's honor system. Students are responsible for understanding the provisions of the code described in detail in the Academic Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/>) section of this catalog and in Schar's graduate student guides which may be found on the Schar School website (<http://schar.gmu.edu>).

Students with grievances should direct them in writing to the Senior Assistant Dean for Student and Academic Affairs, who will provide guidance on how to resolve their concerns in accordance with established procedures.

Students may petition for exceptions to policy regarding academic actions, including termination. Petitions must be submitted in writing to the Senior Assistant Dean for Student and Academic Affairs. The merit of these petitions will be reviewed by the Dean or Dean's designate. Students whose petitions are denied may have a further appeal option available to them. Information on appealing to the Associate Provost for Graduate Education can be found here (<https://provost.gmu.edu/academics-and-research/graduate-education/graduate-student-academic-exceptions-appeals-and/>).

Grade appeals are made to the Dean. Students should contact the Senior Assistant Dean for Student and Academic Affairs in writing to initiate the process. The Dean's decision is final.

- Organization Development and Knowledge Management, MS
- Political Communication Minor (Schar)
- Political Philosophy Minor (SCHAR)
- Political Science, MA
- Political Science, PhD
- Public Administration, BS
- Public Administration, MPA
- Public Management Graduate Certificate
- Public Policy and Management Minor
- Public Policy, MPP
- Public Policy, PhD
- Science, Technology, and Security Graduate Certificate
- Terrorism and Homeland Security Graduate Certificate
- Trade Compliance Graduate Certificate
- Urban and Suburban Studies Minor

Programs

- American Government Minor
- Biodefense Graduate Certificate
- Biodefense, MS
- Biodefense, PhD
- Emergency Management and Homeland Security Graduate Certificate
- Global Commerce and Policy, MA
- Global Economic Policy Graduate Certificate
- Global Health and Security Graduate Certificate
- Global Systems Minor
- Government Analytics Minor (Schar)
- Government and International Politics, BA
- Illicit Trade Analysis Graduate Certificate
- International Security Minor
- International Security and Law, BA
- International Security, MA
- International / Comparative Studies Minor
- Legal Studies Minor
- National Security and Public Policy Graduate Certificate
- Nonprofit Management Graduate Certificate