

# PUBLIC POLICY, MPP

**Banner Code:** PP-MPP-PUBP

## Academic Advising

560 Van Metre Hall  
Mason Square Campus

336 Aquia Building  
Fairfax Campus

Website: [schar.gmu.edu](http://schar.gmu.edu)

The master of public policy leads to a degree for aspiring or experienced professionals who seek career advancement through cutting-edge education and training in policy analysis and development in increasingly technical and global environments. The program prepares students to be reflective practitioners who develop, implement, manage, analyze, evaluate, and effect innovative change in the public and private sectors through a course of study that emphasizes the fundamentals of policy development; the role of technology, analytic assessment, and modeling for policy evaluation; and the implications of international and global perspectives on policy formation. Courses are offered primarily in the late afternoon and evening, as well as online, to fit the schedules of busy professionals.

## Admissions & Policies

### Admissions

#### Requirements

See Graduate Admission Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) for general information on graduate admission to George Mason University. Specific information on application requirements and deadlines may be found with Schar Admissions (<http://schar.gmu.edu/admissions/>). Completed applications for fall and spring semesters are reviewed on a rolling basis, with late applications considered on a space-available basis. Students may be admitted for nondegree study and apply a limited number of credits toward the master's degree should they choose to apply to the degree program later, in accordance with university policy.

### Policies

#### Termination from Program

Students admitted to a Schar program will be terminated from Schar upon receiving one grade of F and are no longer eligible to take courses in Schar. Per university regulation, students are terminated from the university after accumulating grades of F in two courses or 9 credits of unsatisfactory grades in graduate courses. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

#### Program Requirements

Students must complete 36 to 39 credits of coursework through a combination of core courses, electives, and a professional experience requirement. Appropriate professional experience can be demonstrated through previous employment or a supervised internship. Students will

also be exposed to the global nature of public policy activity through the core requirement of international comparative policy assessment.

## Requirements

### Degree Requirements

Total credits: 36-39

#### Required Public Policy Courses

Students take one required course and one elective in each of the four elements below.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Practice Element</b>		
Required Course		3
PUBP 500	Theory and Practice in Public Policy	
Choose one of the following: <sup>1</sup>		3
PUAD 649	Advocacy and Lobbying	
PUBP 570	Policy Writing Fundamentals	
PUBP 730	US Institutions and the Policy Process	
<b>Analysis Element</b>		
Required Course		3
POGO 511	Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government	
Choose one of the following: <sup>1</sup>		3
GOVT 500	The Scientific Method and Research Design	
POGO 611	Advanced Data Analysis for Policy and Government	
POGO 646	Policy and Program Evaluation	
POGO 793	Big Data Analytics for Policy and Government	
PUBP 754	Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis for Public Policy	
PUBP 791	Advanced Field Research for Policy: Theory and Method	
<b>Governance Element</b>		
Required Course		3
PUAD 662	National Budgeting	
Choose one of the following: <sup>1</sup>		3
GCP 605	Technology, Culture and Commerce	
PUBP 503	Culture, Organization, and Technology	
PUBP 761	Social Entrepreneurship and Public Policy	
<b>Economics Element</b>		
Required Course		3
PUBP 720	Microeconomics for Public Policy	
Choose of the following: <sup>1</sup>		3
GCP 503	Macroeconomic Policy in the Global Economy	
PUBP 732	Labor Markets and Policies	
PUBP 741	Public Sector Economics for Public Policy	

PUBP 792	Advanced Economic Analysis for Policy Research	
Total Credits		24

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POGO 750: Topics in Policy and Government, as approved by advisor.

## Electives

Electives are chosen from one of the following policy emphasis areas. One of the courses in the emphasis sequence should have an international focus.

- Economic Policy
- Education Policy
- Global Medical and Health Policy
- International Governance and Institutions
- National Security and Public Policy
- Public Finance and Budgeting
- Regional Economic Development
- Science and Technology Policy
- Social Policy
- Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption
- Transportation Policy
- Urban Policy and Development
- US Government Institutions and Policy Management

Code	Title	Credits
Select 12 credits from the following in consultation with the student's advisor. <sup>2</sup>		12
PUBP 504	Grand Strategy	
PUBP 506	Ethics and the Use of Force	
PUBP 650	International Conflict and Crisis Response	
PUBP 651	Peace and Stabilization Operations	
PUBP 710	Topics in Public Policy	
PUBP 721	Transportation Economics	
PUBP 723	Metropolitan Transportation Policy	
PUBP 726	Telecommunications Policy	
PUBP 730	US Institutions and the Policy Process	
PUBP 733	Urban Politics and Policy	
PUBP 737	Cases and Concepts in E-Government	
PUBP 739	Media and Public Policy	
PUBP 742	Transportation Safety and Security	
PUBP 743	National Security Management and Policy	
PUBP 747	Air Transportation Policy, Operations and Logistics	
PUBP 748	Public Transportation Policy, Operations and Logistics	
PUBP 750	History of Military Operations Other than War	
PUBP 751	International Police Operations	
PUBP 753	Ethics in Public Policy	
PUBP 754	Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis for Public Policy	
PUBP 755	National Security Decision-Making Policy	

PUBP 757	Public Policy in Global Health and Medical Practice	
PUBP 758	Global Threats and Medical Policies	
PUBP 759	National Security Law and Public Policy	
PUBP 760	Science and Technology Policy in the 21st Century	
PUBP 762	Social Institutions and Public Policy	
PUBP 763	Illicit Trade	
PUBP 764	Transnational Crime and Corruption	
PUBP 765	Human Smuggling and Trafficking	
PUBP 766	Modern Counterinsurgency: Theory and Practice	
PUBP 768	Education and Public Policy (Topic Varies)	
PUBP 769	Political Violence and Terrorism	
PUBP 777	Critical Infrastructure Protection: Policy and Practice	
PUBP 783	Global Governance	
PUAD 729	Issues in Public Management	
POGO 730	Global Development and Human Security	
POGO 733	Global Business and Policy	
POGO 734	Country Risk Analysis	
POGO 796	Directed Readings and Research	
POGO 550	Topics in Policy and Government	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government	
PUAD 738	Issues in International Security	
PUAD 739	Issues in International Management	
PUAD 749	Issues in Public Policy	
PUAD 759	Issues in Local Government Administration	
PUAD 769	Issues in Public Financial Management	
GCP 602	Global Financial Crises and Institutions	
GCP 603	Global Trade Relations	
GCP 701	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy	
GCP 702	Special Topics in International Commerce and Policy: Study Abroad	
GCP 710	International Business Transactions: Finance and Investment	
GCP 712	World Trade Organization and Global Trade	
GCP 740	Trade and Regulatory Compliance	
GCP 761	European Political and Economic Union	
GCP 767	Political Economy and Integration in Latin America	
GCP 772	International Telecommunications	
CONF 501	Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution	
HAP 609	Comparative International Health Systems	
HAP 678	Introduction to the U.S. Health System	
HAP 706	Integrated Health Systems Management	
Total Credits		12

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Other courses must be approved by the advisor or program director.

## Professional Experience Requirement

Certification that the student has experience in the public policy process outside the classroom and is ready to take leadership responsibilities must be exhibited by one of two ways: relevant professional experience, approved by the program director, or an approved internship.

Code	Title	Credits
Up to three credits of		0-3
POGO 794	Internship	
Total Credits		0-3

## Accelerated Master's

### Bachelor's Degree (any)/Public Policy, Accelerated MPP

#### Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates in any major may apply to the accelerated Master of Public Policy (MPP) program. If accepted, students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree in their current undergraduate major and a Schar School master's degree within a reduced timeframe. More information on bachelor's/accelerated master's programs may be found in AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>).

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. See AP.6.9 Requirements for Master's Degrees. (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-9>)

#### Admission

Please see the Graduate Admissions Policies for general information on graduate admissions to George Mason University. Information specific to the accelerated master's program may be found on the Schar School BAM website.

To be considered for this accelerated master's program, applicants must have completed a minimum of 60 credits, including 12 credits of Government and/or Economics courses, and have a minimum GPA of 3.50 in all coursework applied to the degree.

#### Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students may complete up to fifteen graduate credits of which twelve may be counted toward both the bachelor's and master's degrees. Remaining credits may be held as reserve graduate credit and count only toward the master's degree. The student must have a minimum GPA of 3.00 in each course. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 in these courses and in coursework applied to their major.

Code	Title	Credits
GOVT 500	The Scientific Method and Research Design	3
POGO 511	Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government	3

POGO 611	Advanced Data Analysis for Policy and Government	3
or POGO 646	Policy and Program Evaluation	
PUAD 662	National Budgeting	3
PUBP 500	Theory and Practice in Public Policy	3
PUBP 503	Culture, Organization, and Technology	3
PUBP 570	Policy Writing Fundamentals	3

Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, students must submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form to apply credits to the master's degree. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree (excluding summer).

## Dual Degree Options

### Joint Degree in Law & Public Policy

The JD/MPP Joint Degree Program in Law and Public Policy provides students with an opportunity to master the fundamentals of legal and policy analysis. It provides students with full legal training and a solid understanding of public policy, preparing them for careers in legal academia, government and policymaking. Upon completion of the graduation requirements of both schools, students of the joint degree program will receive both a JD from the Scalia Law School and an MPP from the Schar School of Policy and Government (Schar). Both degrees can be achieved on a full-time basis in approximately four years, instead of the five years that would be required if each degree were pursued sequentially.

#### Credit Requirements for the JD

The JD requires a total of 89 credit hours. Students must complete 40 credits of required curriculum (see table below) and 49 additional elective credits of upper-level coursework. Students completing the joint degree program may request at the beginning of their final year of study to have the number of required elective credits reduced from 49 to 40.

#### Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Law School's Original Curriculum Required Courses</b>		<b>40</b>
LAW 096	Intro to Lgl Res Writ	
LAW 102	Contracts I	
LAW 110	Torts	
LAW 108	Economics for Lawyers	
LAW 104	Property	
LAW 097	Trial-Level Writing	
LAW 103	Contracts II	
LAW 112	Civil Procedure	
LAW 266	Legislation Statutory Interp	
LAW 106	Criminal Law	
LAW 098	Appellate Writing	
LAW 121	Const Law I-Structure of Gov't	
LAW 099	Legal Drafting	
LAW 298	Professional Responsibility	

#### Electives

Select 49 credits of elective courses: <sup>1</sup>	49
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>89</b>

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Students completing the joint degree program may request at the beginning of their final year of study to have the number of required electives reduced from 49 to 40, as the joint degree program reduces the total number of credit hours needed for graduation.

### Credit Requirements for the MPP

The MPP requires a total of 36 credit hours. Joint degree students must complete all 24 credits of the required curriculum (see accompanying table). Twelve additional policy credits are required in upper division coursework in order to complete the MPP. Any student entering the program without relevant work experience will also be expected to complete a three credit policy related internship.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Schar's Original Curriculum Required Courses (24 credits)</b>		
PUBP 500	Theory and Practice in Public Policy	3
Select one of the following:		3
PUBP 570	Policy Writing Fundamentals	
PUBP 730	US Institutions and the Policy Process	
PUAD 649	Advocacy and Lobbying	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government ((Project Management))	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government ((Public Sector Leadership))	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government ((Policy Communication))	
POGO 511	Introductory Data Analysis for Policy and Government	3
Select one of the following:		3
GOVT 500	The Scientific Method and Research Design	
POGO 611	Advanced Data Analysis for Policy and Government	
POGO 646	Policy and Program Evaluation	
POGO 793	Big Data Analytics for Policy and Government	
PUBP 754	Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis for Public Policy	
PUBP 791	Advanced Field Research for Policy: Theory and Method	
PUBP 720	Microeconomics for Public Policy	3
Select one of the following:		3
GCP 503	Macroeconomic Policy in the Global Economy	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government ((Advanced Macroeconomic and Econometric Methods for Policy Analysis))	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government ((Global Tax Policy))	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government ((Economics of Education))	
PUBP 732	Labor Markets and Policies	

PUBP 792	Advanced Economic Analysis for Policy Research	
PUAD 662	National Budgeting	3
Select one of the following:		3
PUBP 503	Culture, Organization, and Technology	
PUBP 761	Social Entrepreneurship and Public Policy	
GCP 605	Technology, Culture and Commerce	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government ((Social Media Privacy and Innovation))	
POGO 750	Topics in Policy and Government (Biological and Environmental Data Science for Policy))	

### Electives

Select 12 credits of elective courses <sup>2</sup>	12
Professional Experience (as needed) <sup>3</sup>	0-3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>36-39</b>

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Students completing the joint degree program may request at the beginning of their final year of study to have the number of required electives reduced from 12 to 9, as the joint degree program reduces the total number of credit hours needed for graduation.

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Students who do not meet the professional work experience requirement of the Schar School of Policy and Government will be expected to complete a 3 credit internship that does not count towards the 36 credit degree completion total.

### Additional Requirements

Students will have five years from matriculation in the Law School to complete the JD requirements and six years from matriculation in the Schar School of Policy and Government to complete the MPP requirements.

At the beginning of the final year of study, the student must seek approval from the law school for a reduced electives course load, as the joint degree program reduces the total number of credit hours needed for graduation from 125 (89 law, 36 public policy (39 if an internship is required)) to 113 (80 law, 33 public policy (36 if an internship is required)).

Students in the joint degree program will not receive a cumulative GPA, but instead will have two separate transcripts maintained by the separate departments. If a student decides at any point to abandon the joint degree program and pursue one degree or the other, the credit reduction will not remain and students will be expected to complete the entire credit load to receive the degree (89 hours for the JD and 36 hours for the MPP (39 hours if an internship is required)).