

SCHAR SCHOOL OF POLICY AND GOVERNMENT

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- Ming Wan, Associate Dean
- Elizabeth Eck Olchowski, Assistant Dean for Graduate Program Management
- Jill V. Deering, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
- Ann M. Ludwick, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs

College Code: PP

The Schar School of Policy and Government prepares undergraduate and graduate students to be leaders who advance the public good in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Through research and education in policy, government, and international affairs, Schar allows Mason to more effectively serve the region, Commonwealth, nation, and world.

The Schar faculty combines original research with real-world experience to connect theory and practice for the benefit of students and wider constituencies. The School employs approximately 80 full-time faculty members across a wide range of disciplines, including political science, public administration, international relations, economics, management, geography, engineering, sociology, anthropology, and law. Schar is a major research unit of the University, with approximately \$2 million per year in sponsored funding. Schar faculty members frequently advise governments, companies, and non-profit organizations, appear in the national and international media, and participate in public debates on critical issues of the day.

Schar offers two undergraduate majors, eight master's degree programs, three doctoral programs, and a range of undergraduate minors and graduate certificates. Collectively, these programs enroll approximately 2,000 students. Schar offers classes on Mason's Fairfax and Arlington campuses, and its faculty members have offices on both campuses.

Undergraduate Programs

Schar offers two degrees for students interested in political science, government, and international relations: a BA in Government and International Politics and a BS in Public Administration. Majors in Government and International Politics take core courses in American political institutions, the political systems of other countries, and international relations. Students can focus their electives to earn a concentration in American institutions and processes, comparative

politics, international political economy, international relations, law, philosophy and governance, political analysis, political behavior and identity politics, public policy, or a higher credit concentration in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (<https://ppe.gmu.edu>). Majors in public administration and policy take courses in government, management, policy, and administration. Concentrations are offered in administration and management, economic policy analysis, international political economy, nonprofit management, public policy, and US government institutions.

Students have an opportunity to do internships as part of their degree programs, gaining valuable work experience while earning academic credit.

Minors

Schar offers minors in American government, international/comparative studies, international security, legal studies, and public policy and management. In addition, faculty from the School coordinate or participate in the Asia-Pacific and Northeast Asian Studies Minor, Global Systems Minor, Latin American Studies Minor, Middle East Studies Minor, Islamic Studies Minor, and Urban and Suburban Studies Minor. It participates with the Philosophy Department in the Political Philosophy Minor and with the Communications Department in the Political Communication Minor (CHSS).

Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Programs

The School offers qualified undergraduates in any major the opportunity to apply to several accelerated master's degree programs. If accepted, students may earn both an undergraduate and a graduate degree, sometimes within five years. More information about the degree options and application process may be found here (<http://schar.gmu.edu/programs/undergraduate-degrees/accelerated-masters-programs/>).

Graduate Programs

Schar offers three doctoral degree programs and eight master's degree programs, as well as numerous graduate certificate programs. Specific information on each program may be found by clicking the "Programs" tab at the top of this page.

The Schar School of Policy and Government and the Antonin Scalia Law School offer a joint JD/MPP degree program in law and public policy studies. For more information, go to the 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 Energy Science and Policy

Co-Directors: Richard Kauzlarich, PhD and Paul R. Houser, PhD

This center, a joint initiative of the College of Science and 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 Global Policy

Director: Jack Goldstone, PhD

This center conducts research on a wide range of global policy issues, including foreign trade, democratization and state-building, and transnational networks. It also analyzes specific policy issues for a variety of government agencies, and develops and serves as the home to several major cross-national databases for global policy.

Center for Microeconomic Policy Research

Director: John Earle, PhD

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

Center for Regional Analysis

Director: Terry Clower, PhD

Focusing on economic development in technologically intensive regions, the Center for Regional Analysis (CRA) maintains a corporate technology database for the national capital region. The CRA provides economic forecasting services to government agencies at all levels around the world.

Center for Science and Technology Policy

Co-Directors: David M. Hart, PhD and Connie McNeely, PhD

This center helps facilitate the exchange of information and ideas among the worldwide science, foreign affairs, trade, and technology communities. Areas of emphasis include international trade and science and technology.

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 the Study of International Medical Policies and Practices

Director: Arnauld Nicogossian, MD

This center provides leadership and focus on global medical and public health policies and processes, working collaboratively with health, science, and medical organizations in the public and private sectors, and academic organizations to address pressing global policy concerns.

Center for Transportation Public-Private Partnership Policy

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. The Center supports development of U.S. and international case studies of P3 projects and programs, analyses of the impact of P3s, sponsors workshops and conferences, and supports graduate students and faculty.

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: Stephen S. Fuller, 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

Director: Louise I. Shelley, 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, Acs, Button, Clower, Conlan, Dinan, Dudley, Dueck, Earle, Gifford, Goldstone, Hart, Katz, Malawer, Mandaville, McNeely, Olds, Piffner, Regan, Reinert, Rhodes, Root, Rozell, Ruth, Shelley, Singh, Slavov, Thatchenkery, Wan, Wedel

Associate Professors

Anacker, Auerswald, Burt, Butt, Gest, Haddad, Koblenz, Koizumi, Listokin, Lopez-Santana, Marvel, Mayer, McGlinchey, McGrath, Miller, Ouagrham-Gormley, Scherer, Schintler, Sommer, Thrall, Toepler, Victor, Zolnik

Assistant Professors

Berk, Hunzeker, Pham, Terman, Zhang

Research and Term Faculty

Burroughs, Daigle, Deitz, Edner, El Shazli, Hayden, Kauzlarich, Laipson, LaPorte, Martin, Neaves, Nicogossian, Schneider, Shafroth, Srikantia, Stabile, Walker, Wilde

Requirements & Policies**Policies for Undergraduate Students**

Students should become familiar with the university's Academic Policies (<http://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) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) or GOVT 491 Honors Seminar (Mason Core) (<http://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. For the BA in Government and International Politics, there is 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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) and CHSS requirements page (<http://chss.gmu.edu/general-education/all-requirements/>) for more detailed information.

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.

Students with questions about exceptions to academic policies and about School requirements should contact Schar Undergraduate Student Services (Research Hall, Room 359; 703-993-1400; gvip@gmu.edu or puad@gmu.edu).

Additional policy information and forms are available on the Schar website (<http://schar.gmu.edu/>).

Registration

Students are personally responsible for correctly registering for courses and paying all tuition and fees by the official university registration and payment deadlines. All students should verify the accuracy of their enrollment before the end of the official add period.

Academic Load

Students should review AP1.2 Academic Load (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/registration-attendance/#ap-1-2>).

In order to be considered for a credit overload, students must fulfill all of the following criteria:

- Be in good academic standing
- Have completed the prior semester with a GPA of 2.33 or higher
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.33 or higher
- Have demonstrated in prior semesters at Mason the ability to handle an increased and demanding courseload while maintaining high performance
- Have no remaining incompletes (INs) from a previous semester

Freshmen and transfer students in their first semesters are not given permission for overloads as they have yet to establish an academic record at George Mason University.

If approved for an overload, the student is responsible for adding the additional class(es) and paying for the related tuition by the official university deadlines.

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.

University Consortium

Students should review university policies regarding the University Consortium under Special Registration Procedures in the Academic Policies section of this catalog. Students who have attempted or failed a course at Mason are not permitted to take the equivalent course through the consortium under any circumstances. All consortium registration requests must be submitted to the Schar Undergraduate Student Services office at least 3 weeks prior to the first day of classes for the relevant semester at Mason.

Permission to Study at Another Regionally-Accredited U.S. Institution

Once enrolled in degree status at Mason, students with fewer than 60 hours of transfer coursework (not including registration through the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area or coursework completed through Mason Study Abroad) may take up to 8 hours of coursework in Schar disciplines at another institution. See the university Permission to Study Elsewhere policy for additional information.

Study Abroad

In order to be considered for study through Mason Study Abroad, students must plan well in advance and receive prior, written permission from the Assistant Dean. Students must also meet all of the following criteria:

- Meet all eligibility requirements for their program as specified by Mason Study Abroad including course prerequisites and minimum GPA.
- Have completed the immediately preceding semester at Mason with a minimum GPA of 2.00.
- Have completed the necessary forms and have obtained all required signatures and course equivalencies.

Students in danger of probation, suspension, or dismissal should plan very carefully before requesting to study abroad. Students who are not in good academic standing will not be permitted to study abroad.

Leave of Absence

All undergraduate students who are planning an absence from George Mason must submit a formal request for Leave of Absence to the Office of the University Registrar. Students do not need to complete the Leave of Absence form if they are participating in a George Mason University

sponsored study abroad program or have received permission to study elsewhere.

The maximum time allowed for a Leave of Absence is two years. A new admission application will be required if a Leave of Absence extends beyond two years. If a Leave of Absence form was not submitted, a new admission application will be required if a student misses two graded semesters, excluding the summer term. Re-admission is not guaranteed. See Academic Policies for full university policy.

Withdrawals

Students should review the Withdrawal section in the Academic Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/>) section of this catalog. Courses for which a withdrawal is approved receive a grade of "W."

Students should be aware of the potential consequences of withdrawing on their academic standing. Although credits graded "W" do not affect a student's GPA, they do count towards the total attempted hours. The total attempted hours and cumulative GPA together determine a student's academic standing. These are explained in the Academic Standing section of Academic Policies.

Academic Clemency

Students should review the university policies regarding academic clemency in the Academic Standing section of Academic Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/>).

To be considered for clemency, students must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be absent from George Mason for a minimum of three consecutive calendar years.
- Provide a detailed explanation for why they were unsuccessful in those courses and how they have made changes to ensure their academic progress upon their return.
- Submit their request within 12 months of the first day of the re-enrollment term.
- Complete at least 6 credits during their first 12 months back at George Mason.
- Earn a minimum GPA of 2.50 each semester back prior to making the clemency request with no individual grade below 2.00.

If the last three minimum academic requirements are not met, clemency will not be allowed under any circumstances.

Appeals Process

Undergraduate students may appeal decisions concerning academic actions to the Schar Office of Undergraduate Student Services. They may appeal decisions of the Office of Undergraduate Student Services to the Associate Dean. Students may appeal decisions of the Associate Dean to the Associate Provost, Undergraduate Academic Affairs and Programs. Students who feel that the School's appeal process was conducted unfairly may appeal to the Provost's Office as specified in the Academic Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/>) section of this catalog.

The grade appeal process occurs at the Dean's Council level as discussed above.

Students should file all appeals in a timely manner, usually within the semester in which the original decision is rendered, but no later than the final day of classes of the following semester.

Second Bachelor's Degree

Students should review the university policies regarding second bachelor's degrees in the Undergraduate Admission Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-policies/>) and in Academic Policies/ Requirements for Undergraduate Programs (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/>) sections of the catalog. Students pursuing a second bachelor's degree concurrently with their first bachelor's degree at Mason must meet all the additional requirements for the School (see second paragraph of the Policies for Undergraduate Students section) if they differ from the requirements in the School or College of their first major.

Students pursuing a second bachelor's degree in the School after already having received one or more bachelor's degrees are considered to have met all of the Mason Core requirements. Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree do not have additional School-level requirements. Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the School must complete these additional School-level requirements: one additional 3-credit course each in philosophy or religious studies, in social and behavioral science, and in non-western culture (for a total of 9 credits). They must also demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language through the intermediate level.

Minors

Students may elect to take up to two minors in addition to their major field of study. For policies governing all minors, see the AP.5.3.4 Minors (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate-policies/>) section of this catalog. Students interested in earning a minor should complete the appropriate section of the Change/Declaration of Academic Program form and submit it to the Office of the University Registrar. See All about Minors for more information.

Concentration Courses and Minors

Students may elect to declare a concentration, which requires four of their major field electives to be from the same designated field. Students should be aware that minors usually require between 15 and 21 credits of study, at least 8 of which must be applied only to that minor and may not be used to fulfill requirements of the student's major, concentration, an undergraduate certificate, or another minor.

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) (<http://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 (<http://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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/>)

academic/) section of this catalog and in Schar's graduate student guides.

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

Students may appeal decisions concerning academic actions, including termination. Written appeals must be submitted to the Assistant Dean of Admissions and Student Services. The merit of these appeals will be reviewed by the Dean or Dean's designate.

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

A student who is facing termination from the program for non-academic reasons may appeal the decision to the Dean. This appeal must be in writing and must be received within 30 calendar days of the date on the notice of dismissal or termination. The Dean or Dean's designate will make a final determination. This determination may not be appealed.

Programs

- American Government Minor
- Biodefense Graduate Certificate
- Biodefense, MS
- Biodefense, PhD
- Emergency Management and Homeland Security 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 (pending SCHEV approval)
- International Commerce and Policy, MA
- International Security Minor
- International Security, MA
- International / Comparative Studies Minor
- Legal Studies Minor
- National Security and Public Policy Graduate Certificate
- Nonprofit Management Graduate Certificate
- Organization Development and Knowledge Management, MS
- Political Communication 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
- Strategic Trade Graduate Certificate
- Terrorism and Homeland Security Graduate Certificate
- Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics, MA
- Urban and Suburban Studies Minor