



School of Public Policy

PhD in Public Policy



# PhD in Public Policy

## Program Description and Admissions Information

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George Mason University  
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# PhD in Public Policy-Program Guide

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This Guide incorporates most of the requirements and rules pertaining to the PhD Program in the School of Public Policy. In addition, the University catalog and associated requirements and rules, along with other pertinent University policies apply to, and in the case of inconsistency, take precedence over this Guide.

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## **SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY OVERVIEW**

The **School of Public Policy** (SPP) is at the heart of **George Mason University's** commitment to policy studies and research. Located in Arlington, Virginia, SPP takes advantage of its location in the National Capital Region, offering students and faculty unique opportunities to study federal executive and legislative policy-making, as well as agency policy activities.

The School of Public Policy conducts policy research in a number of fields, including regional economic development, transportation policy, science and technology policy, electronic commerce and organizational informatics, governance and public management, and economic policy.

The structure of the school and its dedication to interdisciplinary education and research allow it to reach across the University to bring together the knowledge and skills needed to address a wide variety of policy concerns. While most of the core faculty holds full-time, tenured positions, other members of the SPP faculty are from other university departments and schools. In addition, faculty and students in SPP are published widely in primary academic and professional journals, on topics including American policy and politics, comparative politics, legislative and executive branch operations, federalism, environmental policy, and national security and foreign affairs policies. In addition to the academic faculty and graduate students, SPP hosts a substantial number of senior fellows, visiting faculty, post-doctoral associates, and other researchers from around the world, all of whom makes essential contributions to research, teaching, and outreach activities.

SPP emphasizes alternative approaches to policy decision-making. These approaches result from a view that social and economic changes caused by continuing innovations in modern technology require modifications in the substance of public policy, as well as in the way in which public decisions are made. SPP contributes to new concepts in policy formation, while building on the fundamental, pluralistic, democratic characteristics of policy making in the United States. Appropriate techniques of investigation and analysis are also emphasized. The School is committed to working closely with the University's initiatives in computational science, information technology, bioinformatics, environmental science, conflict analysis and management, health, and other policy related fields.

## **DOCTORAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

This doctoral program prepares its graduates to assume positions of significant responsibility in academia, government, and the private and public sectors. With a focus on analytical and research-based approaches to public policy, our students seek to understand the underlying determinants of public policy choices, analyze and improve the implementation of policy, and identify and assess new opportunities to address emerging issues.

The degree requires a minimum of 82 credit hours of course work and supervised research beyond the bachelor's degree. The specific set of courses a student takes will depend on his or her preparation and substantive interests. However, all students are required to take a set of core courses or to present compelling evidence that they have achieved equivalency. A maximum of 30 transfer credits of relevant prior graduate work may be accepted toward the total of 82. The Doctoral Program Director will determine the amount of transfer credit awarded.

## SPP ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY

Edward Rhodes, PhD	Dean	<a href="mailto:edrhodes@gmu.edu">edrhodes@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-4108
Ann Baker, PhD	Senior Associate Dean & Professor	<a href="mailto:abaker1@gmu.edu">abaker1@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-3805
Jonathan Gifford, PhD	Associate Dean for Research & Director, TPOL Program	<a href="mailto:jgifford@gmu.edu">jgifford@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-2275
Matthys van Schaik, PhD	Associate Dean for Academic Affairs	<a href="mailto:mvanscha@gmu.edu">mvanscha@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-8227
James Pffiffer, PhD	Director, PhD in Public Policy	<a href="mailto:pfiffner@gmu.edu">pfiffner@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-1417
Tennille Haegele	Director of Graduate Admissions	<a href="mailto:thaegele@gmu.edu">thaegele@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-8099
Stephanie Floyd	Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions	<a href="mailto:sfloyd@gmu.edu">sfloyd@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-8099
Janet Viveiros	Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions	<a href="mailto:jviveiro@gmu.edu">jviveiro@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-4478
Crystal Turner	Graduate Admissions Assistant	<a href="mailto:cturne16@gmu.edu">cturne16@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-4978
Elizabeth Eck	Assistant Dean for Program Management	<a href="mailto:eeck@gmu.edu">eeck@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-8225
Shannon Williams Hettler	Assistant Director, PhD Student Services	<a href="mailto:shettler@gmu.edu">shettler@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-4143
Susan McClure	Assistant to the Dean	<a href="mailto:mmclure@gmu.edu">mmclure@gmu.edu</a>	(703) 993-4108

## FACULTY AND THEIR RESEARCH

**Zoltan J. Acs**, University Professor; PhD, The New School, 1980. Globalization; entrepreneurship; philanthropy; development and liberal democracy.

**Mark Addleson**, Associate Professor; PhD, University of Witwatersrand, 1992. Knowledge management; organizational change; learning organizations; methodology of social inquiry; Austrian economics; organizational networks.

**Katrin B. Anacker**, Assistant Professor; PhD, The Ohio State University, 2006. Housing; housing policy; urban policy; race and public policy; real estate markets; statistical methods; qualitative methods; research writing.

**David J. Armor**, Professor of Public Policy; PhD, Harvard University, 1966. Education policy; military manpower; family policy; welfare policy; civil rights/race relations policy (desegregation, affirmative action); welfare/poverty policy; methodology (statistical analysis, survey design).

**Philip E. Auerswald**, Associate Professor; PhD, University of Washington, 1999. Innovation; entrepreneurship; economics of security; energy policy.

**Ann Baker**, Professor of Public Policy, Senior Associate Dean; PhD, Case Western Reserve University, 1995. Organization change; group & organization communication to promote innovation; knowledge management; cross-cultural communication.

**Kenneth J. Button**, University Professor; PhD, Loughborough University, U.K., 1981. Transportation economics; transport planning; economics of privatization and regulation; environmental economics; regional economics; urban economics.

**Audrey Kurth Cronin**, Professor of Public Policy, DPhil, University of Oxford, U.K., 1985. International Relations, international security; war and peace; strategy; terrorism; insurgency and political violence; how conflicts end.

**Janine Davidson**, Assistant Professor of National and Global Security; PhD, University of South Carolina, 2005. International Security; U.S. foreign policy; civil and ethnic conflict; weak and failed states; terrorism.

**Desmond Dinan**, Professor of Public Policy and Jean Monnet Chair; PhD, National University of Ireland, 1985. Global governance; European Union governance and institutions, history and historiography.

**John Earle**, Professor of Public Policy and Economics; PhD, 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.

**Michael K. Fauntroy**, Associate Professor of Public Policy; PhD, Howard University, 2001. American government and politics; political parties; race and public policy; civil rights policy; urban policy; District of Columbia governance.

**Allison M. Frendak-Blume**, Assistant Professor of Public Policy; PhD, Institute for Conflict Analysis & Resolution, George Mason University, 2004. International peacekeeping; stability and reconstruction operations; post-conflict peacebuilding; conflict analysis and resolution; international supervisory/administrative regimes; U.S. foreign policy; Balkans; Russia/Formal Soviet Union.

**A. Lee Fritschler**, Professor of Public Policy; PhD, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, 1965. U.S. national government (Executive); relationship between the institutions of government; accountability; regulation; federalism; public management; science and public policy; higher education policy; U.S. Postal Service and communications policy.

**Stephen S. Fuller**, Dwight Schar Faculty Chair and University Professor of Public Policy and Regional Development; PhD, Cornell, 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.

**Jonathan L. Gifford**, Professor of Public Policy, Associate Dean for Research, and Director, Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics Program; PhD, University of California, Berkeley, 1983. Transportation policy and planning; infrastructure policy and planning; urban and metropolitan planning and land use; technology standards and public policy; transportation and regional development policy; transportation finance and privatization.

**Jack A. Goldstone**, Virginia E. Hazel and John T. Hazel, Jr. Professor of Public Policy; PhD, Harvard University, 1981. Democratization; civil conflict; state failure and reconstruction; long-term social change; sources of economic growth; impact of demographic change on security.

**David M. Hart**, Professor of Public Policy; PhD, 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; business and politics; energy innovation policy.

**Kingsley E. Haynes**, Ruth D. and John T. Hazel M.D. Endowed Chair and University Professor; PhD, Johns Hopkins University, 1971. Regional economic development; infrastructure and transportation policy; resource planning and policy analysis.

**Jessica Heineman-Pieper**, Assistant Professor of Public Policy; PhD, The University of Chicago, 2005. Psychology and the conceptual foundations of science; philosophy of the social sciences; post-development studies; applied ethics; transformation; leadership; health policy and research; globalization and alternative paradigms; cultural diversity; conflict resolution; leadership.

**Jack C. High**, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Economics and Social Learning; PhD, UCLA, 1980. Economic regulation; economic growth; economic history; international trade and investment; international institutions.

**Christopher T. Hill**, Professor Emeritus, PhD, University of Wisconsin, 1969. Science policy; technology policy; industrial innovation; R&D management; comparative science policy; space; energy; homeland security policy and planning.

**Andrew Hughes Hallet**, Professor of Public Policy and Economics; DPhil, 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; regionalism, policy choice and reform; the theory of economic policy and institutional design; dynamic games and bargaining models; risk and decisions under uncertainty; commodity markets, financial policy and strategic trade policy; numerical methods in economics.

**Michael R. Kelley**, Professor of Telecommunications; PhD, Catholic University of America, 1970. Telecommunications policy; policies for managing scarce radio frequency spectrum; government organizations and their approach to managing a variety of public assets (oil, gas, fishing, hunting, etc.).

**Sonia Ketkar**, Assistant Professor, PhD, Temple University, 2006. Foreign entry and exit strategies; firm survival and performance; foreign subsidiary management; international entrepreneurship.

**Naoru Koizumi**, Associate Professor; PhD, Hyogo College of Medicine, Japan, 2005, and University of Pennsylvania, 2002. Stochastic modeling; simulation of health care systems; applied statistics in health care; spatial statistics and applications of geographic information systems (GIS) in public health.

**Todd M. La Porte**, Associate Professor; PhD, Yale University, 1989. Technologies and organizations; technology and society; technology and politics; technology in politics; technology assessment and policy analysis; information and communications

technologies; energy technologies; digital government, both worldwide and in the U.S.; comparative political and economic systems, particularly European; critical infrastructures; large technical systems; high reliability organizations and organizational failure; organization studies; public management and public administration; qualitative methods; data collection methodologies; extreme events; disaster studies; emergency management; space weather.

**Siona Robin Listokin-Smith**, Assistant Professor, PhD, University of California, Berkeley, 2007. Public finance; political economy; corporate social responsibility; corporate governance; retirement and welfare policy.

**Stuart S. Malawer**, Distinguished Service Professor of Law & International Trade; PhD, 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.

**Jeremy D. Mayer**, Associate Professor, PhD, Georgetown University, 1996. Public opinion; racial politics; foreign policy; presidential elections; statistical methods; survey methods; media politics.

**Connie L. McNeely**, Professor of Public Policy; PhD, Stanford University, 1990. Culture; states and society; international development; complex organizations and institutional analysis; comparative education; race, ethnicity, and nations; gender; social theory; science and technology policy.

**Arnauld Nicogossian**, Distinguished Research Professor; M.D., Teheran University, 1964; Internal Medicine and Pulmonary Medicine Fellowship, Mount Sinai Medical Center/Elmhurst City Hospital, NY; M.S., Ohio State University, 1972; Board Certified Preventive Medicine/Aerospace Medicine, 1973. Public health policy; program/project management; strategic planning and execution of research and development; global public health and preventative medicine; aerospace medicine; internal medicine.

**Todd Olmstead**, Assistant Professor; PhD, Harvard University, 2000. Public Policy, health policy; transportation policy; health services research; operations research; statistics; program evaluation.

**Wayne D. Perry**, Professor of Public Policy and Operations Research; PhD, Carnegie Mellon University, 1975. Science and engineering; information technology management and governance; international security and arms control; operations research/management science; statistical models; stochastic processes; managerial economics and econometrics; policy analysis; cost-benefit analysis.

**John E. Petersen**, Professor of Public Policy; PhD, University of Pennsylvania, 1967. Public finance (government finance), both domestic (state, local, federal) and international; international finance and financial institutions.

**James P. Pfiffner**, University Professor of Public Policy and Director, Public Policy Doctoral Program; PhD, Wisconsin, 1975. The presidency; Congress; national security policy process; intelligence; public administration.

**Ramkishan S. Rajan**, Professor of Public Policy; PhD, Claremont Graduate University, 2000. International economics (open economy macroeconomics, finance, and trade) with particular reference to Asia.

**Kenneth A. Reinert**, Professor of Public Policy and Director, International Commerce and Policy Program; PhD, University of Maryland, 1988. International trade policy; international development policy; multilateral development organizations; foreign direct investment.

**Edward Rhodes**, Dean, School of Public Policy; PhD, 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; PhD, 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 and Asian-Pacific affairs.

**Mark J. Rozell**, Professor of Public Policy; PhD, University of Virginia, 1987. The presidency; media and politics; religion and politics.

**Catherine Rudder**, Professor of Public Policy; PhD, Ohio State University, 1973. American political institutions and politics; Congress; tax policy making; self-regulation; governance; non-profit institutions.

**Stephen R. Ruth**, Professor; PhD, University of Pennsylvania, 1971. Telecommunications policy; Higher Education policy—with emphasis on E-Learning; IT diffusion in developing nations; religious/theological issues in public policy formulation; knowledge management approaches in the public sector.

**Laurie A. Schintler**, Associate Professor of Public Policy; PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1995. Critical infrastructure; transportation; quantitative methods; regional development; geographic Information Systems (GIS); network analysis; housing market.

**William Schneider**, Hirst Chair in Public Policy, PhD, Harvard University, 1972. Political science; American politics; public opinion and public policy; news media and public affairs; polling and vote analysis; interviewing and field work; comparative elections and politics; ideology and political movements; presidential politics; race, religion and gender; the politics of foreign policy and national security.

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

**Rainer Sommer**, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Enterprise Engineering; PhD, Columbia Pacific University, 1991, and George Mason University, 1998. Enterprise business systems, strategic planning and telecommunications.

**Roger R. Stough**, Vice President for Research and Economic Development; President, George Mason Intellectual Properties; NOVA Endowed Chair and Professor of Public Policy; PhD Geography and Environmental Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, 1978. Regional economic development policy and analysis; information technology policy; transportation policy; entrepreneurship.

**Tojo J. Thatchenkery**, Professor of Organization Development and Director, Organization Development and Knowledge Management Program; PhD, Case Western Reserve University, 1994. Enhancing innovation and entrepreneurship with Appreciative intelligence; Creating knowledge sharing organizational culture; social capital and organizational mobility challenges of Asian Americans; Information communication technology (ICT) and economic development of India.

**Susan Tolchin**, University Professor; PhD, New York University, 1968. Public policy theory; federal government (US); federal regulation; ethics; political patronage.

**Matthys van Schaik**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; PhD, University of South Carolina, 1995. International commerce and research methods.

**Anne L. Washington**, Assistant Professor of Public Policy, PhD, The George Washington University, 2011. Information Systems and Technology Management. American government; Congress; eGovernment/Gov 2.0; enterprise systems; human-computer interaction; information retrieval; information technology and politics; knowledge management; legislative studies; qualitative methods; social theory; technology management.

**Janine R. Wedel**, Professor; PhD University of California, Berkley, 1985. Governance and privatization of policy; corruption and the state; foreign aid; social networks; eastern Europe; anthropology of public policy.

**Edmund J. Zolnik**, Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Connecticut, 2004. Community and regional development; safe and sustainable transportation; multilevel modeling.

### **Selected Affiliated Faculty**

**Kevin Avruch**, Henry Hart Price Professor of Conflict Resolution and Professor of Anthropology; PhD, University of California, San Diego, 1978.

**Timothy Conlan**, University Professor of Government and Politics; PhD, Harvard, 1981.

**Robert L Dudley**, Professor of Government and Politics; PhD, Northern Illinois University, 1980.

**Gregory A. Guagnano**, Associate Professor of Sociology; PhD, University of California, Davis, 1986.

**Hugh Hecl**, Robinson Professor of Public Affairs; PhD, Yale University, 1970.

**Julianne G. Mahler**, Professor of Government and Politics; PhD, State University of New York, Buffalo, 1976.

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

**Priscilla M. Regan**, Professor of Government and Politics; PhD, Cornell University, 1981.

**Joseph A. Scimecca**, Professor of Sociology; PhD, New York University, 1972.

**Martin Jay Sherwin**, Professor of History; PhD, University of California – Los Angeles, 1971.

### **Instructional and Research Faculty**

**Brien Benson**, Research Associate Professor; PhD, George Mason University, 1998.

**David F. Davis**, Research Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy; M.S. (Applied Mathematics), 1981, M.S. (Operations Research), Naval Postgraduate School, 1981.

**Robert L. Deitz**, Distinguished Visiting Professor, CIA Officer In Residence, M.P.A. Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, 1972, J.D. Harvard Law School, 1975.

**James H. Finkelstein**, Professor, School of Public Policy; PhD, The Ohio State University, 1980.

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

**Christine Pommerening**, Research Assistant Professor; PhD, George Mason University, 2004.

**James Riggle**, Associate Research Professor, PhD, George Mason University, 2002.

**Charles Robb**, Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy; JD, University of Virginia, 1973.

**Lisa Sturtevant**, Research Assistant Professor, PhD., George Mason University, 2006.

## PHD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS\*

### **STAGE ONE – CORE SKILLS:**

**Prerequisites:** Methodological and Substantive Foundations (if deemed necessary)

- A. PUBP 704 Statistical Methods in Policy Analysis
- B. PUBP 720 Managerial Economics and Policy Analysis
- C. PUBP 730 National Policy Systems and Theory

**Core Courses:** Completion of all core courses with a grade of B or better is required unless exempted.

- A. PUBP 800 Culture and Policy
- B. PUBP 801\* Macro Policy
- C. PUBP 804 Multivariate Statistical Analysis
- D. PUBP 805 Public Policy Systems and Theory

Qualifying Exam taken upon completion of all core courses.

\* Students whose final paper in PUBP 801 is not deemed acceptable must schedule PUBP 709 in the next semester.

### **STAGE TWO – POLICY FIELDS AND SKILLS:**

- A. Elective courses (3 courses)
- B. Advanced Methods (1 course)
- C. PUBP 850 Graduate Seminar in Policy Research (offered in the spring; should not be taken in first semester)

### **STAGE THREE – RESEARCH FOUNDATIONS:**

- A. Field of Study (3 courses)
- B. Advanced Methods (1 course)
- C. Field Statement
- D. Field Exam

Concentration Requirements:

- (1) By end of their third semester, full time students (fourth semester for part-time) must choose a chair for their Field Committee.
- (2) By the start of their fourth semester, full time students (fifth semester for part-time) must submit to the chair of their Field Committee a plan for their Field of Study. The Field of Study Plan (max. 1000 words) will describe a Concentration or a proposed research area, including citations relevant to current research in that Field. The Plan must identify three substantive courses and at least one advanced methods course that the student intends to take that will serve as a foundation for the Field. The Plan must be approved by both the student's Field Committee Chair and the Director of the PhD program.
- (3) The three substantive courses must include at least one 800 level course offered in SPP (*excluding core and advanced methods courses*). The other two courses may include any courses from SPP at the 700 level or above (*excluding those 700 level courses listed as not eligible for PhD field credit*), and no more than one substantive graduate course from outside SPP.
- (4) The advanced methods course must be chosen from the approved list for the SPP PhD program, or approved in writing by the Field Committee Chair and Director of the PhD program.
- (5) Where appropriate courses are not available from SPP, students may petition the Director of the PhD program for substitute courses to count for their Field of Study Plan.
- (6) Courses in the Field of Study Plan are intended to be taken concurrently with work on the Field Statement and Field Exam. Students may not present a dissertation proposal for approval until they have passed the Field Exam.

\*Field examination must be completed before advancement to candidacy for the degree (see page 9 for more information).

### **STAGE FOUR – DISSERTATION:**

- A. Dissertation Proposal (PUBP 998)
- B. Proposal Oral Defense
- C. Dissertation (PUBP 999, 12 credits 998+999)
- D. Dissertation Oral Defense

\*Official program requirements are published in the annual *PhD Student/Faculty Handbook* issued to new students during orientation. The current issue is located at: [http://policy.gmu.edu/academicservices/acad\\_forms\\_phdhandbook.html](http://policy.gmu.edu/academicservices/acad_forms_phdhandbook.html).

## PHD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (continued)

### **Examinations:**

#### **Qualifying Examination:**

The Comprehensive Qualifying Examination assesses the ability of a student to understand a complex policy problem, to analyze the problem and its underlying database and to prepare a written report on that problem, as well as to assess core knowledge and methodological/substantive foundations. This examination is offered in late May/early June and in January of each year. *Full-time students are required to take the examination at the end of their first year of study while part-time students are required to take the examination no later than the completion of their second year.* Prior written approval to postpone the examination must be obtained from the Doctoral Program Director. This will be granted only once and the student must take the examination at the next offering. Students will have two opportunities to earn a passing grade on this examination. Failure to pass the Comprehensive Qualifying Examination on the second attempt will result in automatic dismissal from the program. With the exception of PUBP 850, the core courses listed above must be taken within the required timeframe prior to the Comprehensive Qualifying Examination.

#### **Field Examination:**

Students are also required to write a field statement and pass a field examination in their specific field of proposed doctoral research. The field examination must be completed for the student to advance to candidacy for the doctoral degree. It is scheduled at a time that is mutually agreed upon by the committee chair and the student.

#### **Full-Time/Part-Time Status:**

Full-time students are required to take a minimum of three courses of at least three credits each semester. This does not include the summer term. Part-time students are required to take a minimum of two courses of at least three credits each semester. Reduction of this load can be offset by a course in the summer. However, keep in mind that required courses are generally not available in the summer.

Every effort is made to schedule public policy courses to accommodate the needs of part-time students. Students who seek to pursue their doctoral training on a part-time basis must recognize that flexibility on the part of their employers is essential for successful participation in the doctoral program. Required academic functions – colloquia, annual retreats, and general student-faculty meetings – occur during daytime hours and part-time students are expected to attend, when appropriate.

#### **Grading Policies:**

The following grading policies are in effect for all doctoral students. For PUBP 800-level courses, a grade of B- or lower must be retaken. Students are also required to present a 3.0 GPA on the courses listed on the graduation application.

A student is automatically dismissed from the doctoral program for the following reasons:

1. Receiving a grade of F in a single graduate level course.
2. Receiving a grade of B- or below in two or more 800 courses, even if retaken.
3. Receiving a grade of B- or below in a single core course after the second attempt.

(Since PUBP 709 is a remedial course for PUBP 801, a grade of B- or below in PUBP 709 will also result in dismissal.)

#### **Residency Requirement:**

The doctoral program must include a minimum of 36 hours of graduate work taken at George Mason University after admission to degree status. The University requires that all doctoral students spend a minimum of two consecutive semesters in continuous registration.

#### **SPP Graduate Research and Teaching Assistantships:**

Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs) are available only for full-time PhD students, and are offered in the Fall term for the academic year. There are no new GRA awards offered for Spring term.

## PHD PROGRAM - FIELDS OF STUDY

The SPP faculty's range of academic interests is extensive, and the research topics chosen by SPP's doctoral students is equally broad (see <http://policy.gmu.edu/dissertations> for a list of dissertation titles). Recent research topics have varied from the ethical issues associated with cloning; population measures as indicators of fertility change; and the effect of charter schools on academic achievement to collaborative inter-organizational networks; export processing zones; and the globalization of organized crime. The advantage of entering the interdisciplinary world of public policy is that there is no defined list of fields from which students must choose; indeed, students must define their own fields (see <http://policy.gmu.edu/phdmilestone> for a description of the Field of Study Plan). Many students begin their academic journey by exploring one of the concentrations below, with which many SPP faculty affiliate themselves.

### **Regional Development and Transportation**

Public policy is influenced by location and mobility. This concentration focuses on two policy areas. It looks at the changes in economic structure of sub-national regions, and how policies affect these changes and direct these dynamics. It also considers how movement of goods and people can influence the ways regions and cities develop, and how transportation policy has evolved, not only to afford greater economic efficiency in its own right, but also as part of the spatial development process. While policy makers less commonly discuss the development of sub-national regions than national macroeconomic policy, it affects where people live, train, look for work, and raise families. Transportation and modern communications allow people and institutions within a region to interact and provide the basis of everyday life and, as a result, develop in an internally coherent and externally unique way. The history of regions' and transport's legal, economic, industrial, and cultural development leaves a legacy that evolves, but is seldom broken. Hence, the development of social and cultural expressions and values needs to be recognized in the design and execution of regional policy. In addition, there is increasing awareness that regional economies contain the basis for national economic well-being.

### **Technology, Science, and Innovation**

New technologies present extraordinary opportunities for achieving major public policy objectives, such as economic growth, environmental sustainability, public health, military security, and the advancement of knowledge. Yet, they may also place the very same objectives in jeopardy. Whether the public benefits from technological change depends on how well the processes of innovation and diffusion are governed. The TSI concentration focuses on understanding and improving the institutions that are engaged in governing these processes.

TSI embraces a broad vision of institutions and governance, and of understanding and improvement. The institutions of interest to scholars within the concentration include formal organizations – public, private, and non-profit – and informal patterns of belief and practice. Governance encompasses not simply the exercise of public authority but also patterns of private decision-making and behavior that influence the types of new technologies that are created, how quickly they are taken up by potential users, and the distribution of their benefits and costs in practice. Faculty and students in TSI seek to develop new and deeper understanding of the processes of scientific discovery and of technological innovation and change to improve the foundation for analysis of related governance challenges.

### **U.S. Governance**

This concentration is concerned with the nature of governance in the United States, with appropriate comparisons with non-U.S. and international systems. Governance includes the theoretical and practical approaches that societies take to organizing themselves for making decisions about public policy issues. Emphasis is placed upon the values that underpin institutional and policy choices, including the ethical and accountability aspects of policy making. Particular attention is devoted to policy making institutions such as Congress, the Presidency, executive branch agencies, and state and local governments as well as to the theories and processes of public policy, including agenda building, the media, instruments of implementation, regulation, interest group activity, intergovernmental relations, budgeting, and tax policy.

### **Culture and Society**

The Culture and Society concentration emphasizes the role that social institutions, social processes, and culture play in the development and implementation of public policy. Study in this concentration is grounded in the understanding that public policy decisions are not made in a vacuum; they are the result of cultural and social forces, from both contemporary and historical perspectives. These forces also provide the context for policy making.

In order to analyze public policy, the student will be exposed to a wide range of theoretical and methodological frameworks that offer insight into the policy process both in the United States and internationally. Through exposure to these frameworks and the development of others, the student will be able to analyze how public policy is made and implemented, determine why specific policies are formulated, and evaluate their relative merits and effectiveness. Students in the concentration are expected to focus on both functional areas of public policy as well as attending to their contextual frameworks. These include attention to specific issues and areas in public policy such as education, race and ethnicity, crime, gender, health, the family, corruption, immigration, and the media, among others.

### **Organizational and Information Technology**

The Organizational and Information Technology concentration makes use of emerging theories and philosophies to examine the roles and impact of information technology on both public policy and organizational change management. The intention is to give particular emphasis to the interconnections between policy, organizational structures, cross-functional process integration, and knowledge management-based initiatives. For example, IT is used to “connect” public organizations, to make them more efficient or more responsive. Or, enterprise integration tools change the way organizations function (they enable outsourcing for example) but they have an impact in the public sphere through issues such as job creation, security, and privacy.

### **Global and International Systems**

Students in the Global and International Systems concentration can pursue a wide range of international and comparative policy issues, including those related to economics, development, conflict and security, democracy and governance, and international relations. The consideration of organizational and global processes, technological change and the economic, political, and cultural aspects of international policy are an integral part of the concentration. Also, given the nature of international policy issues, informal or formal links to the other concentrations within the School of Public Policy are appropriate. The first course in the concentration surveys the field of Global and International Public Policy with a focus on relevant theoretical and methodological approaches and debates, and provides students with tools for analyzing various world problems and policies. The second course in the concentration is more applied and focuses in greater depth on specific problems in international politics and policy, seeking ways to deal with issues of security, conflict processes, inequality, international migration and refugees, democracy, and international governance. Alternately, students in this concentration may study international trade policy, addressing international trade theory, trade policy analysis, regional economic integration, and the institutional arrangements governing world trade.

### **Entrepreneurship, Growth, and Public Policy**

Entrepreneurship is the process of uncovering an opportunity to create value through innovation, and entrepreneurs are rewarded for transforming knowledge into new products and bringing them to the market. This multidisciplinary program examines entrepreneurship policy from the perspective of the agent, business, economy and society. Relying less on the state for wealth creation, distribution and ownership, an entrepreneurial society looks to individual initiative to propel the economy and the society. Increasingly, the concept of entrepreneurship is being adjusted and applied to the public and nonprofit sectors. Building on and expanding existing strengths in SPP in regional economic development and in science and technology policy, the concentration in entrepreneurship policy prepares students to understand the role of entrepreneurship in society and help create entrepreneurial economies.

This concentration encompasses a number of considerations, including the role of occupational choice in the exploitation of opportunity; the process by which new ventures are created in a variety of spheres (economic, governmental, associational) and the direct and indirect economic and social consequences of these ventures; the intersection of theories of entrepreneurship and theories of innovation; the evaluation of public policies that encourage entrepreneurship and economic development; the role of entrepreneurship in economic growth; the role of entrepreneurship in the design of new organizations; the factors that influence the levels of entrepreneurship in a region, nation, and the global economy; the forms and effects of social entrepreneurship within public institutions; the use of an entrepreneurship lens to find and implement novel solutions to public problems; and the role of human and financial resource assembly in entrepreneurship.

## PUBLIC POLICY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS\* (PUBP)

The most updated [Schedule of Courses](#) is also available through the GMU website at:  
<http://registrar.gmu.edu/schedule>

You may also review prior course syllabi through the program website:  
[http://policy.gmu.edu/academicervices/acad\\_coursesch.html](http://policy.gmu.edu/academicervices/acad_coursesch.html)

**Note: All courses listed below are PUBP courses.**

**704 Statistical Methods in Policy Analysis:** A graduate-level introduction to the statistical methods and techniques used in the policy sciences. Topics include descriptive statistics, sampling and probability theory, graphical data display, estimation and significance testing, contingency tables, bivariate regression and correlation, and multiple regression, with an introduction to computer-based statistical analysis. (3 credits)

**720 Managerial Economics and Policy Analysis:** Introduces microeconomics theory and its application in analyzing public policy issues. The course is intended to provide the student with the capability to understand economic literature and theories. (3 credits)

**730 National Policy Systems and Theory:** Provides an inquiry into the policy-making environment, organized around the U.S. federal system. The seminar examines the nation's policy systems and its key components: the actors, institutions of governance, outside groups and other influential interests. Special emphasis is placed on the dynamic character of policy making. In addition, different policy theories are discussed in the context of current political realities. (3 credits)

**791 Advanced Field Research for Policy - Theory and Method:** Teaches students to analyze the framing of policy questions and to examine culture and organization at group, organizational (and inter-organizational), and societal levels. Case study research, open-ended interviewing, participant-observation, social network analysis, historical and archival research covered. (4 credits)

**792 Advanced Economic Analysis for Policy Research: (Prerequisite: PUBP 720 or equivalent)** Builds analytical skills in economic analysis for policy research. Designed for graduate students in policy with competence in elementary calculus. Reviews mathematical techniques and then covers: consumer theory, demand estimation/forecasting, production theory, cost-benefit analysis, technological change/productivity analysis, growth theory, market structure/competition, game theory, capital budgeting, and the role of the public sector in the economy. (4 credits)

**793 Large-Scale Database Construction and Management for Policy Research:** Familiarizes students with data resources for macro-comparative policy research and how to use these resources to inform decision making and evaluate policy performance. Emphasis on how social science data is generated, coded, and managed; and on the methods for successful presentation of evidence in support of policy recommendations. (4 credits)

**796 Directed Readings and Research:** Independent reading and research at the masters or doctoral level on a specific topic related to public policy as agreed to by a student and a faculty member. (1-3 credits)

**800 Culture and Policy:** Provides a comparative overview of institutions and culture, focusing on the ways that the United States is exceptional when compared with other mature industrial societies. It presents culture and social structure as explanatory variables in accounting for these differences. It is also intended to give an overview of the analytical methods used in comparative public policy research, and to provide background on the political environment in which international trade and investment decisions are made. (2-4 credits)

**801 Macro Policy:** Demonstrates how macroeconomic, technological, demographic and social forces affect the supply and demand for governmental services. Counterpart analysis of the impact of shifts in the patterns of international trade, the demographic composition of the population, and trends in the social structure are also examined. The course is intended to build an awareness of the need to factor alternative assumptions about the macro environment into policy planning; to show how macro events can affect both social welfare and policy performance indicators; and to suggest how national income accounting analysis and simple macroeconomic models can help to pinpoint impending trouble spots for public policy. (2-4 credits)

**804 Multivariate Statistical Analysis: (Prerequisite: PUBP 704 or equivalent)** Explores the multivariate techniques of contingency table analysis, reliability and validity assessment, factor analysis and scaling, multivariate regression and path analysis, the analysis of variance and covariance and other selected multivariate techniques. Emphasis is on applying these techniques to real policy data using sophisticated statistical packages. (4 credits)

**805 Public Policy Systems and Theory: (Prerequisite: PUBP 730 or equivalent)** Theories of public policy making, emphasizing discipline's historical, intellectual and international development. Focus on policy systems' political and social dimensions, including agenda-setting, policy design, rationality, incrementalism, systems theory, scientific methods, public choice theory. Applies theories to comparative systems of governance. (4 credits)

**810 Regional Development and Transportation Policy:** Introduces and critiques the theory and methods used in regional and transportation policy analysis. Students learn about central place theory, growth pole theory, and economic base theory, as well as other theoretical constructs used in regional policy analysis. Further, methodological tools such as regional econometric modeling, multiobjective programming, shift-share analysis, economic base analysis, location quotient analysis, and input-output analysis are also introduced and examined. Finally, selected current regional and transportation public issues are examined using the theoretical and methodological constructs introduced in the first part of this course. (2-4 credits)

**811 Applied Methods in Regional Development and Transportation Policy: (Prerequisite: PUBP810 or permission of instructor)** Students develop research papers that investigate some element or aspect of regional and transportation policy, with the goal of producing publishable papers. The students develop the focus of their papers based on work carried out in the first semester, and are expected to prepare a two-page proposal, followed by a detailed proposal and finally, the completed paper. Each of these is critiqued in the seminar, which is organized to conform to this process of review and critique. The instructor works with each of the students individually, as well as in the seminar sessions. (2-4 credits)

**820 Technology, Science, and Innovation - Institutions and Governance:** Explores how political and economic institutions and cultural values shape the pace, direction, and costs and benefits of technological innovation and scientific research. Special emphasis is placed on the interaction between national institutions and values and processes of globalization. (2-4 credits)

**821 Analytic Methods for Technology, Science, and Innovation Policy: (Prerequisite: PUBP820 or permission of instructor)** Covers major methodological approaches to the study of technology, science, innovation, and public policy. Focuses on the analytical inputs to policy-making and assesses their practical consequences in such areas as security, energy, environment, health, and others. (2-4 credits)

**833 Topics in Public Policy:** Focuses on selected topics in public policy not covered in fixed-content public policy courses. (1-4 credits)

**840 U.S. Policy Making Institutions:** Examination of major institutions that formulate and implement policy at the national level in the United States. Emphasis on the Presidency, Congress, and executive branch bureaucracies that carry out policy. Also considered are agenda building institutions such as various media, interest groups, political parties, and elections. (2-4 credits)

**841 U.S. Policy Making Processes: (Prerequisite: PUBP840 or permission of instructor)** Analysis of the major U.S. public policy processes. Attention to the major instruments for implementing policy, including regulation, grants, tax policy, and market based mechanisms; and how different methodologies are appropriate for understanding aspects of policy inquiry. Ethical and accountability aspects of policy covered; federalism, intergovernmental relations, and state and local governance may be covered. (2-4 credits)

**850 Seminar in Public Policy:** A weekly colloquium series required of public policy PhD students. Features a variety of speakers from universities, government and nonprofit sectors. Topics include policy formulation and analysis, as well as theoretical and methodological foundation. (1 credit)

**860 Social Theory, Culture, and Public Policy:** Major social and cultural theories that underlay public policies. Selections from classical and contemporary social theorists relevant to the study of social change, social capital, and social organization. Focus on the interplay among culture, social institutions, social processes, and policy. (2-4 credits)

**861 Culture and Social Policy Analysis: (Prerequisite: PUBP860 or permission of instructor)** Application of social and cultural theories to policy topics, including methodological approaches and empirical studies. Emphasizes linkage between theory and empirical research and the methods appropriate for social policy study. Policy topics may include poverty and inequality, the family, education, crime and corruption, immigration, and health. (2-4 credits)

**880 Global and International Public Policy I:** Explores the multiple dimensions of globalization and internationalization relative to public policy processes and consequences. Its aim is to offer substantive insight into contemporary public policy dynamics from a global and comparative perspective. Accordingly, it examines a broad range of international cultural, political, technological, and economic policy issues, and their interactions and implications at all levels of analysis. Engages relevant theoretical and methodological approaches and debates in order to provide students with tools for analyzing various world problems and policies. (4 credits)

**881 International Trade Policy - Theory and Institutions:** Addresses international trade theory, trade policy analysis, regional economic integration, and the institutional arrangements governing world trade. It covers the World Trade Organization (including its constituent agreements in the areas of goods, services, intellectual property and trade-related investment measures), regional trade agreements such as NAFTA, dispute settlement regimes, and the relations between trade and the environment. (4 credits)

**998 Research/Proposal for Dissertation:** Requires work on a research proposal that forms the basis for a doctoral dissertation. May be repeated, although no more than 12 credits of PUBP 998 and 999 may be applied to doctoral degree requirements. (1-9 credits)

**999 Dissertation:** Requires research on an approved dissertation topic under the direction of a dissertation committee. May be repeated, although no more than 12 credits of PUBP 998 and 999 may be applied to doctoral degree requirements. (1-9 credits)

\*Official program requirements are published in the annual *PhD Student/Faculty Handbook* issued to new students during orientation. The current issue is located on the program web site:

[http://policy.gmu.edu/academicservices/acad\\_forms\\_phdhandbook.html](http://policy.gmu.edu/academicservices/acad_forms_phdhandbook.html).

#### **George Mason University Libraries and Resources**

GMU Libraries have a vast array of resources to support students and faculty in their academic endeavors. These materials come in various formats, including books, journals, newspapers and electronic resources. The latter are of particular importance and most databases are accessible to students from off-campus. These include products such as *Lexis-Nexis*, *Dow Jones Interactive*, *Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)*, among others.

As part of the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC), GMU students have use of major academic libraries in the Washington Metropolitan area, including The George Washington University, American University and Catholic University, among others. Much of the document delivery from these universities is Web-based through the consortium loan service (CLS), as is interlibrary lending. Further information can be obtained from GMU Libraries' website: <http://library.gmu.edu>

## PHD IN PUBLIC POLICY ADMISSIONS AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

Doctoral applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for admission in the Fall semester, for both full-time and part-time study. No spring admission cycle is available for our PhD program. Please note that Graduate Research Assistantships are only awarded to students who are attending school full time.

The ideal doctoral applicant has demonstrated capabilities in research and writing, basic mathematical skills approximately equal to the first semester of calculus and a competence in statistics, some background in economics, and a theoretical and working knowledge of public policy processes. Applicants with strong academic records who are deficient in one or more of these areas may possibly be admitted to the program and will receive assistance in making up any deficiencies. All PhD candidates must have earned a master's degree or equivalent from an accredited university or college prior to matriculation.

*The GMU graduate application process requires the applicant to submit a complete set of documents with the application. All application credentials must be received before the application will be reviewed.*

1. Graduate application and the online application fee. There are no fee waivers. **Please note** that when completing the online application, you will be required to submit this fee by credit card payment. The graduate application can be completed at: <http://admissions.gmu.edu/ApplyNow>.
2. A 750-1000 word written statement of your academic goals – include your research area of interest for advanced study in public policy and your post-degree goals.
3. A current resume or vitae.
4. A master's degree from an accredited institution with a GPA of 3.00 or better and two official transcripts of all university work completed including bachelor's degree work.  
**Students presenting international credentials must provide official transcripts, degree certificates or diplomas, and certified translations of the documents in English (if applicable).**
5. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or General Management Aptitude Test (GMAT) official score results are required. GRE/GMAT scores must have been earned within the past 5 years.
6. Two letters of recommendation from faculty at the prospective student's previous institutions or from persons acquainted with policy-relevant work. At least one recommendation should be from an individual who is qualified to attest to the candidate's academic potential.
7. A writing sample (approximately 10-25 pages in length) such as a technical report, professional publication, or term or seminar paper.
8. TOEFL scores (required for international applicants) – minimum score of 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based), or 100 (internet-based.) **\*\*Please note that students submitting internet-based exam results must earn a minimum score of 23 on each individual exam section. An official score report is required. In addition, students may be required to be tested by the GMU English Language Institute.**
9. Certificate of Financial Responsibility (required for international applicants seeking an F-1 or J-1 visa) – submit completed form along with required supporting documents with your application.

### Application Deadlines:

**Fall** (August matriculation)

**Deadlines:** February 1- International applicants\*  
March 1- Domestic Applicants

*\*Please adhere to the International student deadlines if you have done your undergraduate or graduate study outside of the U.S.*

Graduate Research Assistants are available for full-time PhD students only, and are offered in the fall term for the upcoming academic year. If interested, please indicate on the application your interest in a GRA.

**Submit ALL application materials (including all official transcripts, letters of recommendation, and TOEFL scores) to:**

**School of Public Policy, Graduate Admissions  
3351 Fairfax Drive, MS 3B1  
Arlington, VA 22201**

## GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL AID AND COST INFORMATION

### **Graduate Tuition and Fees for 2011-2012** (subject to change):

- In-state graduate tuition and fees: \$661 /per credit hour
- Out-of-state graduate tuition and fees: \$1,200.25 /per credit hour

### **George Mason University Federal Title IV School Code: 003749**

To determine if you are eligible for need-based financial aid and to establish eligibility for alternative non-need based financial aid resources, you must apply each year.

For more information visit the **GMU Financial Aid website: <http://financialaid.gmu.edu>**

**1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Renewal FAFSA Application and mail it to the federal processing center as soon as possible after January 1 for which you are applying to receive financial aid.**

You do not have to be admitted to a degree program to complete the FAFSA application.

You may also use the electronic FAFSA Express software to submit your application electronically. Applications received by the processing center after March 1st for the next academic year are considered "late" and cannot be given priority consideration, and may be reviewed only for Federal Pell Grants, Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and Federal Direct Parent loans. For example, financial aid applications must be received by the federal processor by March 1 to be considered "on-time."

You can complete the FAFSA using ESTIMATED income and tax figures. If necessary, do this rather than missing the priority filing date. Be prepared to provide complete copies of your Federal tax returns, tax schedules, and W-2 forms if requested.

**2. Approximately 4-6 weeks after you mail the application you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). You must review it, and if it is not correct, make appropriate corrections, sign it and send Part 2 back to the federal processor.**

**3. If additional information is required to process your file, you will receive a Missing Information Letter from the Office of Student Financial Aid. You should respond to this request as quickly as possible. Failure to respond in a timely manner can drastically affect the amount of aid that you are offered.**

**4. After all information is received by the Financial Aid Office you will receive an award eligibility notification in the mail. This will include the types and amounts of aid you are offered and instructions for applying for the Federal Direct Stafford Loan program. If you are found ineligible for need-based financial aid, information will be provided to assist you in applying for an Unsubsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan and/or a Federal Direct Parent Loan. For on-time new incoming First Year Students, this award notification should arrive sometime in April. For on-time new transfer students and returning students, this award notification should arrive sometime after May 1st.**