

Government and International Politics, BA Public Administration, BS

Department of Public and International Affairs
majors.cas.gmu.edu



Would you like to learn more about international security or globalization? Study Congress or the presidency? Do you want to study civil rights and the U.S. legal system? Do you want to learn more about politics in other countries? Do you want to gain a deeper understanding of such terms as “freedom” and “democracy”? Or are you interested in the way government agencies operate? Looking for the answers to these and similar questions could lead you to a major in government and international politics or public administration.

Program Profile

The Department of Public and International Affairs offers two majors through which students can deepen their understanding of politics: a bachelor of arts in government and international politics and a bachelor of science in public administration.

A **government and international politics major** will provide you the opportunity to deepen your understanding of politics. As part of your major, you can concentrate on a particular field of interest, such as American politics, international and comparative politics, or political theory and law. A **public administration major** will introduce you to the challenges of administration in public, private, and nonprofit settings.

George Mason University’s proximity to Washington, D.C., greatly enriches the study of politics. The federal government, international organizations, embassies, political campaigns, lobbyists, and nonprofit organizations can be experienced up close. Some of our classes are taught by experts who work in the nation’s capital. Many of our students participate in internships to apply and expand their classroom knowledge. Many of our graduates find jobs in the Washington area.

Students graduating with a BA in government and international politics or a BS in public administration pursue a wide range of careers. Many attend law school. Others work for federal, state, or local government, or in international organizations. Students also pursue careers in business, political campaigns, or the nonprofit sector.

Careers in Public and International Affairs

While many of our graduates go on to traditional careers in law, government, and education, an increasing number of graduates are moving into a broader array of careers that span the public and private sectors. These careers include journalism, communications, banking, research, publishing, management consulting, international finance, regional projects, corporate public affairs, and environmental or other nonprofit organizations.

“It’s a very strong program, with a wide variety of courses and an approachable faculty, and it is close to all the political action in D.C.”

—A government and international politics student

Contact Information

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Minors

The department offers four minors:

- **American government.** Develops knowledge of the principles, institutions, and behaviors of the American political system.
- **International/comparative studies.** Increases awareness of the regions and current issues of the world on theoretical and practical levels.
- **Legal studies.** Focuses on the constitutional foundations, interpretation, processes, and functions of domestic and international law.
- **Public policy and management.** Introduces students to the theory and process of policy formulation and implementation in the political and governmental arena.

Bachelor of Arts in Government and International Politics

The major in government and international politics is a bachelor of arts degree, combining the study of American political institutions, other political systems, and international relations. After completing core courses, students can concentrate in one of four areas for concentration: American politics, international and comparative politics, political theory and law, or public policy and administration.

Bachelor of Science in Public Administration

Public administration is a multidisciplinary bachelor of science degree. Students take courses in government and nonprofit management, as well as supporting courses in computer applications and business administration. By taking courses in both the business and the government realms, students prepare for careers in the public, the private, and the nonprofit sectors.

Honors Program

Qualified students may participate in a two-semester capstone course that will allow them to graduate with honors. Students take a seminar course in the fall. In the following spring semester, each student, mentored by a department faculty member, researches a topic on which they write a thesis.

Internships

The department's internship program provides students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience in a variety of fields related to public and international affairs. Such real-world work experience enables students to explore career options, apply theoretical knowledge, and develop a professional network. Students can earn up to 6 credit hours for successful participation in the program. Our students have interned on Capitol Hill, in the White House, in federal agencies, in state and local government departments, for law firms, and for nonprofit associations.

Why Study Politics at George Mason University?

Located in Virginia only minutes from Washington, D.C., Mason's proximity to our nation's capital greatly enriches the study of politics. Students have the opportunity to experience firsthand offices of the federal government, international organizations, embassies, political campaigns, lobbyists, and nonprofit organizations. Some of our classes are taught by experts who work in the capital region. Many of our students participate in internships to apply and expand classroom knowledge. In addition, many of our graduates find jobs in the Washington metropolitan area.

Recent graduates of our program have gone on to jobs in the following organizations:

Accenture
American Cancer Society
Central Intelligence Agency
Dean Witter
Embassy of Japan
Federal Bureau of Investigation
IBM Corporation
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of State
White House
World Bank