



KNOW
SCHOOL
PUBLIC
AFFAIRS



SMART+
PASSIONATE
+FOCUSED+
ENGAGED
=WONK

OUR MISSION AT THE SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC AFFAIRS

is to prepare leaders to analyze issues and tackle complex challenges in public service. We aspire not only to transmit knowledge to the next generation, but also to create new knowledge that influences public policy. Whether you are just starting out or are midcareer, we provide the intellectual foundation and practical skills you need to distinguish yourself and succeed professionally—anywhere in the world.

Reveal your inner WONK. And start creating meaningful change right here, right now.

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

Where better to build or enhance your career in public service than at a school ranked among the best for public affairs by U.S. News and World Report?

Founded in 1934, our school has always married theory and practice, based on the idea that the public and private sectors are interdependent.

Small classes and a passionate, engaged community of scholar-practitioners are our hallmarks. Renowned experts in their fields, SPA faculty are accessible and involved in the intellectual, professional, and personal development of every student. Well-connected to Washington's people and places of influence, they—together with our active network of alumni—open doors for internships, mentoring, and career opportunities.

At SPA, we believe in the power of experiential learning. We encourage our students to roll up their sleeves, take advantage of our location in this global capital, and work alongside Washington's wonks, whether federal executives, policy makers, nonprofit leaders, or community activists.

SUCCESS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING LAW JURISPRUDENCE POLICY HOMELAND SECURITY GLOBAL PUBLIC SE
APPLIED POLITICS ACTIVIST TERRORISM SOCIETY WONK MANAGEMENT COMMUNIC

SPA's research centers and institutes draw on the scholarship and expertise of our world-class faculty. This collaboration and exchange of ideas reverberate not only across campus but also among scholars and thought leaders around the country—and the world.

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

CEP seeks to improve how we address environmental challenges through effective governance.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC FINANCE RESEARCH

CPFR conducts research and education in public budgeting and finance, financial management, economics, and benefit-cost analysis on all levels, from local to international.

CENTER FOR CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL STUDIES

CCPS provides integrated teaching, research, and study focused on Congress and the presidency.

CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTION MANAGEMENT

CDEM focuses on education, research, and public engagement across the full range of democracy issues, both domestic and international.

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF PUBLIC POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

ISPPI offers a unique forum in which all stakeholders in the public policy implementation system work together on a continuing basis to create compelling results.

JUSTICE PROGRAMS OFFICE

JPO provides technical assistance, research, evaluation, and training to domestic and foreign government agencies and organizations in the area of justice system operations.

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

MES links AU programs, initiatives, and faculty connected with Middle East issues.

WASHINGTON INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH

WIPAR bridges the academic and policy worlds, advancing scholarly research on pressing issues.

WOMEN AND POLITICS INSTITUTE

WPI provides academic training to women, encouraging their participation in the political process and facilitating research that enhances our understanding of challenges facing women in politics.

MASTER'S DEGREES

CE INFLUENTIAL LEADERSHIP URBAN SUSTAINABILITY **WONK** CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERNATIONAL
EXPERT ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT SOCIAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PUBLIC SECTOR MEDICAL



POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

Master the skills and knowledge you need to navigate the exciting and fast-changing worlds of politics and communications. Leading scholar-practitioners from the School of Public Affairs and the School of Communication collaborate to prepare you for everything from directing communications on a presidential campaign, to managing media relations for a national grassroots outreach project, to guiding your client through a crisis. **36 credit hours**

SAMPLE COURSES

Advanced Studies in Campaign Management
Applied Political Writing
Art and Craft of Lobbying
Communication Theory
Political Communication
Research Methods in Communication

SAMPLE CAREERS

Communications director
Media consultant
Vice president of public relations
Speech writer



PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Prepare for leadership responsibilities and executive roles in public agencies, national and international nonprofit organizations, and private firms. This degree equips you with the skills and techniques required to implement policies and projects, manage complex public programs, and navigate organizational, human resource, and budgetary challenges.

42 credit hours

CONCENTRATIONS | policy analysis, applied politics, state and local administration, or nonprofit, international, public, or public financial management

SAMPLE COURSES

Budget and Cost Analysis
Legal Basis of Public Administration
Management Analysis
Managing Nonprofit Organizations
Problem Solving for Managers
Project Management

SAMPLE CAREERS

Budget director
City manager
Government relations specialist
HR consultant
Mayoral advisor



PUBLIC POLICY

Analyze the issues—social, political, economic, legal, and security—that influence and shape public policy. This degree prepares you to work as an analyst, researcher, or advisor to develop, assess, and evaluate alternative approaches to current and emerging issues and challenges. [39 credit hours](#)

CONCENTRATIONS | international development, public or nonprofit management, applied politics, or social, health, or environmental policy

SAMPLE COURSES

Economics for Policy Analysis
Environmental Sustainability
Ethical Issues in Public Policy
Healthcare Policy
Methods of Problem Solving I/II
Social Policies and Programs

SAMPLE CAREERS

Budget analyst
Global health strategist
Intelligence analyst
Policy analyst
Sustainability manager



JUSTICE, LAW, AND CRIMINOLOGY

Focus on the practical, academic, or strategic areas of law, justice, crime, and security. Four concentrations give you solid skills in research design and quantitative methods, evaluation techniques, and statistical training. **33 credit hours**

CONCENTRATIONS | JUSTICE AND PUBLIC POLICY Consider theories of cause and prevention of crime and delinquency. The classic curriculum prepares you for practice, research, or advanced study in criminology or criminal justice. **TERRORISM STUDIES AND SECURITY POLICY** Examine issues around the prediction, prevention, and control of terrorism and national security, with targeted training in security and public protection. **JURISPRUDENCE AND SOCIAL THOUGHT** Explore the intersection between global law and sociology relative to human rights, punishment theory, ethics and morality, race, religion, and gender. **LAW AND SOCIETY** Focus on the relationships between the law and other social institutions, and gain perspectives on the role of law in society.

SAMPLE COURSES

Gender and the Law
Introduction to Justice Research
Law and Human Rights
Legal Theory
Rule of Law and Due Process
Terrorism, Crime, and Public Policy

SAMPLE CAREERS

Community relations officer
Counterterrorism analyst
Criminal investigator
Human rights activist



TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY POLICY

This degree focuses on matters of national security from the perspectives of criminology and criminal justice. The program encourages thought beyond tactical approaches to develop strategic, policy-based solutions that federal, state, and local governments can use to combat terrorism and other current and future security threats. **33 credit hours**

SAMPLE COURSES

National Security Law and Policy
Cyber Threats/Security
Domestic Terrorism and Political Violence
International Security

SAMPLE CAREERS

Cyber security chief
Homeland security officer
Operations research analyst
Intelligence analyst



PROGRAMS

We know that life can make demands on your time and that people's schedules and goals vary—so we offer a variety of study options to accommodate your needs and interests.

CERTIFICATES

SPA certificate programs let you explore a field of interest, acquire professional skills, or prepare for a master's degree:

- NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT
- PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
- PUBLIC MANAGEMENT
- PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS
- WOMEN, POLICY, AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

DUAL DEGREE

We offer five dual degrees with the Washington College of Law, enabling you to complement your law degree with a master's degree in the social sciences:

- JD/MSJ
- JD/MPA
- JD/MPP
- LLM/MPA
- LLM/MPP

DOCTORAL

Selective and rigorous, SPA's three doctoral degrees give you a competitive edge to launch your career in academic research and teaching or applied research:

- PHD IN JUSTICE, LAW, AND CRIMINOLOGY
- PHD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
- PHD IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE

These intensive, two-year programs for midcareer working professionals feature weekend classes to fit your schedule:

- KEY EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP MPA
- MS IN ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT

JURISPRUDENCE POLICY HOMELAND SECURITY
SOCIETY WORK MANAGEMENT

GLOBAL PUBLIC SECTOR
COMMUNICATION

PASSIONATE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING
ACTIVIST TERRORISM

LAW SOCIETY



APPLY

Facts are useful—but they can only tell you so much about American University's School of Public Affairs. We encourage you to visit our campus, talk to our students and faculty, meet with a graduate admissions staff member, and even sit in on a class. Graduate information sessions are held on and off campus throughout the year.

To schedule an appointment, visit:
american.edu/spa/admissions/request_appointment.cfm

Upcoming events are posted at AMERICAN.EDU/SPA/ADMISSIONS

DEADLINES

PHD January 1

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS February 1

FALL (INTERNATIONAL) ADMISSION May 1

FALL (FINAL) ADMISSION June 1

SPRING ADMISSION November 1

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY
SOCIAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
WONK
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
PUBLIC SECTOR MEDIA
INTERNATIONAL

JUSTICE
INFLUENTIAL LEADERSHIP
ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL FINANCIAL M

Decisions are made on a rolling basis. Applicants are typically notified within four to six weeks of submitting a completed application.

FINANCIAL AID

American University offers many options for financial assistance. For information, visit american.edu/spa/admissions/tuition.cfm.

CONTACT US

American University School of Public Affairs
Office of Graduate Admissions
Ward Building, Suite 310
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20016-8022

202-885-6230 or spagrad@american.edu

Complete admissions information, including requirements and how to apply online:
AMERICAN.EDU/SPA/ADMISSIONS/APPLY-TO-SPA.CFM

CAREERS

LEADER JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT GLOBAL LAW POLICY ANALYST ADMINISTRATION SOCIETY NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION PRACTICAL WONK EXPERIENCE POLITICAL COMMUNICATION INTERNSHIPS INTELLECTUAL

SPA CAREERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Our graduates—smart, passionate, and committed change makers—go on to successful careers in every sector of public service. Ninety-two percent are employed within six months. Below is a sampling of places where you will find SPA wonks:

35% FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Boston, Massachusetts | District of Columbia | Office of the Inspector General | National Security Agency
U.S. Congress | U.S. Department of Defense | U.S. Department of Education | U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of State | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | U.S. House of Representatives | U.S. Senate

2% INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International | Inter-American Development Bank | Nippon Foundation | United Nations | World Bank

24% PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT

Booz Allen Hamilton | Deloitte | GlaxoSmithKline | ICF International | Lockheed Martin

41% PRIVATE NOT-FOR-PROFIT

AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families | Brookings Institution | Family Health International | Green Building Certification Institute | Higher Education for Development | Pew Research Center | Urban Institute

SPA BY THE NUMBERS

RANKED
5th
WORLDWIDE
*for institutional impact
in the field of
public administration**

RANKED
1st
**MOST POLITICALLY
ACTIVE STUDENTS**
by Princeton Review

3.4
AVERAGE
gpa

RANKED
3rd
IN THE U.S.
*for institutional impact
in the field of
public administration**

AMONG THE TOP
3
*Producers of Presidential
Management Fellows*

17
AVERAGE
class size

RANKED
1st
IN WASHINGTON
*for institutional impact
in the field of
public administration**

MPA RATED
8th
*by U.S. News
& World Report*

19.5%
MINORITY
STUDENT
REPRESENTATION

* According to a new study published in the Journal of Public Affairs Education.

NOTES

American University School of Public Affairs

Office of Graduate Admissions

Ward Building, Suite 310

4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20016-8022

202-885-6230 | spagrad@american.edu

AMERICAN.EDU/SPA/ADMISSIONS



FSC LOGO



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