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.

OUR MISSION AT THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SMART + PASSIONATE + FOCUSED + ENGAGED = WONK

AMERICAN.EDU/SPA/ADMISSIONS
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.
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 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 enhance our understanding of challenges facing women in politics.
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

AMERICAN.EDU/SP/ADMISSIONS
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

american.edu/spa/admissions
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Compete and lead in the political arena—Capitol Hill, campaigns, nonprofits, or think tanks—or pursue further graduate study. Build your expertise in campaign management, public affairs advocacy, or analysis of processes of political change.

33 credit hours

CONCENTRATIONS | AMERICAN POLITICS Explore how the American political system influences and implements public policy in the context of governmental institutions and political behavior. APPLIED POLITICS Learn essential skills for political or campaign practitioners through hands-on training at AU’s Campaign Management Institute, Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute, European Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute, or Women and Politics Institute.

COMPARATIVE POLITICS Examine the art of policy making in different political systems, the interaction between domestic and foreign policy, problems relating to urban and rural development in emerging nations, and democratization and political change.

SAMPLE COURSES
- Advanced Studies in Campaign Management
- Classics of Comparative Politics
- Grassroots Lobbying
- Political Analysis
- Social and Political Movements, Ethnicity, and Nationalism

SAMPLE CAREERS
- Campaign manager
- Legislative director
- Political consultant
- Research analyst
- Social media manager

Americans.edu/SPA/admissions
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

AMERICAN.EDU/SP/ADMISSIONS
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
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

**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:

- Ph.D. in Justice, Law, and Criminology
- Ph.D. in Political Science
- Ph.D. in Public Administration

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/MPA
- JD/MPP
- JD/MPA
- JD/MPP
- LL.M./MPA
- LL.M./MPP

**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

**EXECUTIVE**
- Key Executive Leadership MPA
- MS in Organization Development
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
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
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. 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

SPA BY THE NUMBERS

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

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

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

RANKED 1st MOST POLITICALLY ACTIVE STUDENTS by Princeton Review

RANKED 8th MOST PRODUCERS OF PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT FELLOWS

5th World Wide for institutional impact in the field of public administration*

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

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

RANKED 1st MOST POLITICALLY ACTIVE STUDENTS by Princeton Review

3.4 AVERAGE GPA

17 AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

5% MINORITY STUDENT REPRESENTATION

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