

Dear SPA Faculty,

Once again this year we will be seeking faculty applications for the *Public Affairs and Policy Lab* (PAPL). The deadline for faculty applications to this program will be Friday, November 12. We invite you to participate in this SPA research and funding program which funds our best undergraduates as research assistants for faculty members. Both students and faculty will be funded through PAPL. Two to three projects that have topics dealing with polarization and extremism will be funded by the Eckhardt Family Fund for the Public Affairs and Policy Lab.

Many of our students are seeking advanced research experiences in collaboration with an SPA professor. Our professors are also looking for students who they can collaborate with on projects.

The *Public Affairs and Policy Lab* is a program mainly for students starting in the summer of their First Year and continuing into their Sophomore year. The program works like this:

1. Every Fall semester SPA faculty are invited to provide a 300-word description of a research project they are working on and a 200-word description of what an undergraduate research assistant could do to advance that project. Those descriptions will be posted online and shared with SPA undergraduates.
2. Starting in December, SPA students will be invited to meet with the faculty whose projects they are interested in and submit an application to a particular faculty member.
3. Each faculty member will rank student applicants in order of preference.
4. The Dean's Office will review the applications including the faculty project descriptions, the student applications and faculty preferences. The Dean's Office will award faculty-student teams. Each team would get \$1,000 for the faculty member and \$3,000 for the student.
5. The student will conduct research for the faculty member over the summer up to 20 hours a week.
6. Students will write a research brief of their work, due at the end of September, to be posted on the SPA website.
7. The next semester student awardees will be encouraged to engage in an independent study research project with their paired faculty member that might result in a published research project for which the student would get formal recognition in the publication. Students would write another research brief of their work to be posted on the SPA website.
8. If a student does an independent research project and is then admitted to the SPA Honors program for their third year they will be allowed to count that sophomore project toward an SPA Honors Colloquium.

**Faculty, please use this link <https://www.american.edu/spa/resources/papl-faculty-form.cfm> to submit a brief description of your research and a brief description of what work you need an undergraduate research assistant to conduct. We will circulate your submission to undergraduates and help you identify appropriate research assistants. The submission deadline for SPA faculty is Friday, November 12.**

Please fill out the linked form and send me any questions you may have.

Thanks for participating.

Sincerely,  
Saul

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