Dual Bachelor of Arts in an SMPA major and Master of Arts in the field of Media and Strategic Communication

The School of Media and Public Affairs offers a dual degree for students who wish to pursue the study of strategic political communication in greater depth and attain a higher level of skill and credentials before entering the job market. The master's in media and strategic communication (http://smpa.gwu.edu/node/167) is designed for students interested in media and strategic political communication. Students gain a full understanding of how political actors use communication, as well as the history and theory behind how various forms of communication affect the operation of both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

SMPA undergraduate majors are able to accelerate the MA degree by double counting nine credits toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees -- providing substantial tuition savings and reducing the necessary credits for a master’s degree to 27 credits. This comes out to seven additional three credit classes, plus six credits towards a capstone project or thesis.

Applicants must have at least a 3.5 overall GPA and apply to the dual degree program in the second semester of their junior year.

Students do not need to take the GRE to apply for the dual degree program.

Taking additional MA courses as an undergraduate: In some cases, a student may have completed all undergraduate credit requirements (including double counted graduate level course work) as a result of AP or transfer credits. If such a student wants to take additional graduate level course work towards the graduate degree while still an undergraduate, a petition must be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Studies (http://advising.columbian.gwu.edu) before enrolling in the additional graduate courses; no requests for retroactive credit will be approved. Please be aware that taking graduate level course work at the undergraduate level may affect the student’s financial aid; student should address questions to the Office of Student Financial Assistance (http://financialaid.gwu.edu).

Dual Bachelor of Arts in an SMPA major and Master of Professional Studies in the field of Political Management

The School of Media and Public Affairs and The Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM) offer a dual degree BA/MPS program designed for high-achieving undergraduate students who are interested in careers in the field of political management (http://gspm.gwu.edu/node/120). A specified number of graduate credits may be counted toward the undergraduate degree, which allows both programs, which allows students to complete both degrees in a shorter time and at lower cost than if both programs were pursued separately. This option is available only to George Washington University students.

Application to the combined degree program may be made by an SMPA undergraduate student in the third year of study. Admission to the combined degree program allows the student to substitute two political management (https://gspm.gwu.edu/node/120) courses for the requirements of the SMPA undergraduate degree. The student will graduate from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences with a BA in political communication or a BA in journalism and mass communication, then continue to pursue a MPS in political management (https://gspm.gwu.edu/node/120) at the Graduate School of Political Management.