BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES IN LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

The George Washington University’s Department of Political Science (http://www.gwu.edu/~psc) and the Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM) offer a dual degree B.A./M.P.S. program designed for high-quality undergraduate students majoring in political science who are interested in careers in the field of Legislative Affairs (http://gspm.gwu.edu/node/139). This dual degree program, by allowing the counting of credits for several courses towards both programs, enables both degrees to be granted 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.

The Department of Political Science and GSPM share a common commitment to nurturing students who are interested in pursuing professional careers in politics. GSPM graduate-level courses offer a clear and logical extension to many political science undergraduate courses.

Application to the dual degree program may be made by a declared political science major in the semester that he or she completes 60 credits. The 60 credits must not include any transfer credits. A political science major may apply later than the end of sophomore year; however, by doing so may limit the ability to fully enjoy the benefits of this program.

Admission to the dual degree program allows the student to substitute three Legislative Affairs (http://gspm.gwu.edu/node/139) courses for the requirements of the undergraduate political science major. These courses will count toward three of the four upper level elective courses in political science required for the major and may be taken during the second semester of junior year and during senior year. All political science majors are required to complete an undergraduate proseminar. The student must take the GRE and apply to the M.P.S. program in the last semester of undergraduate course work. The student will graduate from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences with a B.A. in Political Science, then continue to pursue a M.P.S. in Legislative Affairs (http://gspm.gwu.edu/node/139) at the Graduate School of Political Management.

REQUIREMENTS

Admissions requirements:
All materials, other than those included in the online Graduate School of Public Management application, are to be submitted directly to the undergraduate advisor (swiley@gwu.edu). Application materials to the undergraduate dual degree program can be used in the application for the Master of Professional Studies in Legislative Affairs (http://gspm.gwu.edu/node/139). The admission decision at the undergraduate level is not a guarantee of admission into the master’s program, nor does it require the applicant to complete the master’s degree at the Graduate School of Political Management upon graduation from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

The following documents are required:
Completion of the application form (https://gspm.gwu.edu/sites/gspm.gwu.edu/files/downloads/PSC-LEGA%20Dual%20Degree%20Application.pdf) submitted in the semester before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in the field of political science. Applications are due:
- Fall - June 15
- Spring - November 15
- Summer - April 15

Personal statement: In an essay of roughly 250-500 words, explain why you are interested in pursuing the 5-year option and why you should be considered for admission. Among the issues to be addressed are:
- What are the kinds of intellectual issues in political science that you find intriguing?
- Why are you interested in graduate studies in the field?
- What special skills and knowledge can you contribute to the graduate program?

Three letters of recommendation (at least two must be from Political Science faculty): Letters of recommendation may be submitted through the online application to the M.P.S. program and used as application materials for both the undergraduate dual degree program and the political management master’s program.

Program of study:

Three of the following core courses:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LGAF 6201</td>
<td>Politics and Public Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAF 6202</td>
<td>Legislative Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAF 6203</td>
<td>Executive-Legislative Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGAF 6204</td>
<td>Research Methods for Legislative Affairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Contact the undergraduate advisor (swiley@gwu.edu) for more information.