GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Graduate Council NEW Certificate, Concentration, Track or Degree Program
Coordination/Approval Form

(Please complete this form and attach any related materials. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. If no coordination with other units is requires, simply indicate “None” on the form.

Title of Program/Certificate, etc: Political Science

Level (Masters/Ph.D.): Ph.D.

Please Indicate: ___X___ Program ______ Certificate _______ Concentration _____ Track

Description of certificate, concentration or degree program:
Please attach a description of the new certificate or concentration. Attach Course Inventory Forms for each new or modified course included in the program. For new degree programs, please attach the SCHEV Program Proposal submission.

Please list the contact person for this new certificate, concentration, track or program for incoming students:
Robert Dudley, Chair, Department of Public and International Affairs
Julianne Mahler, Director, Graduate Program in Political Science

Approval from other units:
Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new program. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

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1. Institution  
George Mason University

2. Program action (Check one):  
- Spin-off proposal  
- New program proposal  

3. Title of proposed program  
Ph.D. in Political Science

4. CIP code  
45.1001

5. Degree designation  
Ph.D.

6. Term and year of initiation  
Fall 2006

7. Term and year of first graduates  
Spring, 2010

8. For community colleges: date approved by local board

9. Date approved by Board of Visitors

10. For community colleges: date approved by State Board for Community Colleges

11. If collaborative or joint program, identify collaborating institution(s) and attach letter(s) of intent/support from corresponding chief academic officers(s)  
none

12. Location of program within institution (complete for every level, as appropriate). If any organizational unit(s) will be new, identify unit(s) and attach a revised organizational chart and a letter requesting an organizational change (see Organizational Changes—hotlink).

   School(s) or college(s) of ___ Arts and Sciences

   Campus (or off-campus site) ___ Fairfax

   Distance Delivery (web-based, satellite, etc.)

13. Name, title, telephone number, and e-mail address of person(s) other than the institution’s chief academic officer who may be contacted by or may be expected to contact Council staff regarding this program proposal.

   Robert Dudley, Chair, Department of Public and International Affairs 703 993 1400, rdudley@gmu.edu
   Julianne Mahler, Director, Graduate Program in Political Science, 703 993 1414, jmahler@gmu.edu
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Proposal for the Ph.D. in Political Science
presented by the
Department of Public and International Affairs
George Mason University

Description of the Proposed Program

Overview

The objective of the Ph.D. program proposed here is to prepare political scientists for professional careers in research and teaching by combining academic education in the field with opportunities for experience within the kinds of complex domestic and international political organizations they are studying. Graduates will be scholars and teachers, but additionally, experience-based understanding will enhance their analytic skills. Our location and abundant links to political institutions makes us a prime location for this new kind of political science degree. Our large and distinguished faculty can offer both depth and breadth in the scholarship of the two primary fields to be offered by the new degree: a) the institutions and processes of American government and b) international relations and comparative politics. Students will also have the opportunity in this program to take advantage of the courses in other GMU graduate programs, such as the School of Public Policy, the Center for Global Affairs, the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and the Global Affairs program. Finally, such a program is needed in Northern Virginia. Political scientists are particularly drawn to this region to study near the center of our national government and international organizations headquartered in our region. The experience we have had with the M.A. program in Political Science is evidence of a clear demand here for a highly regarded and affordable political science program offered by a Commonwealth of Virginia university.

The proposed program will offer students experiential opportunities with governmental or political organizations or with the firms and non-profit organizations that are concerned with politics, administration and government. Students will have the opportunity to experience government and politics first-hand in domestic and international political organizations such as parties, lobbying groups, think-tanks, international institutions and non-governmental organizations, academic journals and journals of political opinion, as well as congressional and Executive offices. Our faculty’s working links with many of these governmental and non-governmental organizations will enable us to help students find and make good use of these learning opportunities. The object of the experiential learning element of the proposed program is to provide students with the opportunity to understand and apply the analytic concepts of the academy in settings they are designed to explain. Our expectation is that students will emerge from their experiences in political organizations with a more critical, nuanced, and complex understanding of the concepts that have been used to account for political processes and institutions. Subjects from redistricting to sustainable development could be studied in the scholarly literature and in the field. We hope to prepare scholars and teachers with the insight and experience to expand academic understanding and make genuine contributions to the domestic and international institutions in which they have worked and studied.

This educational model, patterned after the American Political Science Association’s Congressional Fellows Program, will set us apart from other Metro area universities and make us additionally attractive to students. Our location, our teaching capacity both within the department and University-wide, and our status as a program within the Commonwealth of Virginia university system all give us a unique advantage in offering students an excellent and affordable program that will prepare them to be effective scholars and teachers of government and politics. It will serve the needs of national and international students for an institutionally focused program at a public university near the nation’s capital.

Departmental Capacity

A Ph.D. degree will also make use of the large and diverse capabilities of the faculty of the Department of Public and International Affairs in American government and in international relations and comparative politics. The Department was one of the first to offer graduate programs at George Mason University, graduating its first MPA students in 1979. The Department has offered doctoral course work under the DPA, offered from 1980 to 1991, and currently in collaboration with Environmental Science and Public Policy and the School of Public Policy. We began to offer the MA in Political
Science in 2002 and the Ph.D. in Justice, Law and Crime Policy (JLCP) was approved in 2004. Our faculty have had a great deal of experience teaching Ph.D. level courses, serving as advisors to Ph.D. students in other programs, and chairing or serving as members on dissertation committees. Department members have also had ample experience administering graduate programs in public administration and political science.

Our political science faculty has grown steadily in numbers to some 40 members and has gained the capacity to offer the kind of advanced specializations needed to offer the Ph.D. Almost all faculty teach in more than one of the discipline’s sub-fields, and each sub-field in which we propose to offer specializations is well represented among the faculty. The Ph.D. degree will build upon the already strong graduate course offerings in political science, public administration and the administration of justice to achieve efficiencies in the delivery of the degree. Students may also work with the many other centers of excellence in the university in international relations, global studies, American culture and ideas, historical, economic and social research methodologies, and public policy. The University has also cultivated program relationships to universities around the world, and these links will be extremely valuable for our PhD students. The degree will increase George Mason University’s growing visibility in Political Science and Public Affairs. In sum, the distribution of teaching resources in the Department and the synergies among the programs it offers, including the MA, the MPA, graduate programs in justice administration, and other University programs make it feasible to propose to offer the Ph.D. at this time.

**Program Requirements**

The proposed program will allow students to specialize in one of two fields: American politics and Government or International Relations and Comparative Politics. Courses in Political Theory and Research Methods will be required of students in all fields. The degree will require 72 hours of course-work divided among: foundation courses; advanced courses in the student’s major and minor fields; supporting courses that can be outside the Department; research methods courses; experiential learning; and dissertation guidance.

The course work will be allocated as follows:

- **Foundation Courses**: 12 hours (in American Politics, International Relations and Comparative Politics, Political Theory, and Research Methods in Political Science).

- **Major Field Courses**: at least 18 hours of advanced courses in one field, including the two field seminars.

- **Minor Field Courses**: at least 12 hours of advanced coursework in a second field to be designed by the student to complement the major. The field should be defined in concert with the student’s advisor. May include courses outside of the Department that support the student’s dissertation preparation. Altogether up to 12 hours may be taken in other departments to fulfill minority portions of any of the requirements, including the methodology requirement.

- **Advanced Methodology Courses**: at least 6 hours in addition to Govt 500, Research Methods in Political Science. Must include Govt 715 Statistical Methods in Political Science Research and one other course in quantitative, qualitative, historical and/or philosophical methods. The last of the three methodology courses should be tailored to the student’s dissertation research needs.

- **Opportunity for Experience in Government and Politics**: Up to 6 hours (twenty hours per week in the field for one semester or ten hours a week for two semesters). Students will produce an academic paper at the conclusion of the experience discussing the implications of their observations for research in the field and how scholarship in the field might be applied to an issue faced by the organization.

- **Dissertation Proposal**: 3-6 hours.

- **Dissertation Guidance**: 15 hours.

**Research Proficiency**
In the course of fulfilling these requirements or independently, students must demonstrate proficiency in either statistical, mathematical and computational techniques or in one foreign language at an advanced level of reading and comprehension. Proficiency will be determined by satisfactory coursework or by exam at the time of the qualifying exam.

Description of the Curriculum

American Politics: The field of American government and politics examines the principles, institutions, behaviors and development of the American political system. The curriculum in this field is designed to provide a strong knowledge base and the analytical skills that will enable students to understand, evaluate, and critique the complex interdependencies of American politics. The Department is particularly strong in American institutions which form the basis for understanding of political behavior and governmental processes. Federalism and state and local politics are well developed areas as well, thanks to our long-established offerings in public administration. We have a growing expertise in political behavior and political development.

The field of American Politics is of natural interest to students in the Northern Virginia area. Our proximity to the Nation’s capital, and our location near local governments known for their professionalism makes blending scholarly research and institutional experience in this field attractive and feasible. Public forums in American politics at the Wilson Center of the Smithsonian, numerous think-tanks, and at other metro-area universities will provide an excellent intellectual setting for a new Ph.D. program. We also expect our location to continue to provide a strong pool of potential students eager to continue their education in preparation for careers in teaching and research.

International Relations and Comparative Politics. The field of International Relations and Comparative Politics combines what have traditionally been considered two separate sub-fields within political science. Our approach, influenced by the reality of globalization, emphasizes the study of both comparative political systems and international relations. Such an approach is grounded in the belief that the intersection between domestic politics and international affairs is of increasing importance in this globalized and interconnected world, and that a theoretical approach that aims to unite the theoretical and conceptual concerns of both comparative politics and international affairs will better prepare students to analyze the complex political dynamics that today affect global peace and stability. This integration will put GMU’s program in the forefront of this emerging trend.

The Department of Public and International Affairs is in a unique position to offer such an approach due to a strong faculty which is committed to understanding the dynamics of globalization and the intersection between the global and the local. Comparative politics faculty members, while grounded in specific areas of expertise common to the sub-field of comparative politics, such as democratization, political parties and other democratic institutions, state-society relations, revolutions, warfare, social movements, ethnic politics, and political economy, also bring expertise as area studies specialists in the key regions of the world, including the Middle East, Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa. International relations faculty are specialists on issues of central concern in international relations, including security policy, foreign policy, international political economy, war and peace, post-colonial and ethnic politics, ethics in international affairs, human rights and humanitarian intervention, and many are also area studies specialists.

In addition to the rich course offerings in International Relations and Comparative Politics, students have the opportunity to attend an extraordinary number of talks by academics, political leaders, and officials from around the world in the Greater Washington D.C. area. Our location affords students the opportunity to participate in forums organized by other area universities, think tanks, advocacy groups, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations such as the Organization of American States, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. In addition, their institutional experience will link students to the world of political practice that will enrich their capacity to be successful scholars in the field.

Proposed and Existing Courses for the Degree

Foundation Courses: 12 hours (Starred courses already exist to serve the MA, MPA, or JLCP degree students; applications are pending for new courses)

Govt 500 Research Methods in Political Science*
Govt 510 American Politics *
Govt 520 Political Theory*
Govt 540 International Relations and Comparative Politics*

**Methodology Courses**
Courses designed to fulfill the methodology requirement in any field include:
Govt 715 Statistical Methods in Political Science Research*
Stat 510 Statistical Foundations for Decision Making*
Soci 630 Analytic Techniques of Social Research*
Soci 631 Survey Research *
Soci 634 Qualitative Research Methods*
Css 600 Introduction to Computational Social Sciences*
Css 605 Object-oriented Modeling for the Social Sciences*
Css610 Computational Analysis of Social Complexity*

**Courses for the Field in American Government**

**Required Seminars:** (select two of three)
Govt 605 Seminar in Congress and the Presidency *
Govt 703 Seminar in the Courts and Constitutional Law*
Govt 706 Seminar in Federalism and Changing Patterns of Governance*

**Elective Courses**
Puad 615 Administrative Law*
Puad 640 Public Policy Making*
Puad 651 Virginia Politics, Policy and Administration*
Govt 719 Issues in American Politics (e.g. Electoral Politics and Public Opinion)*
Govt 725 Democratic Theory and Democratization*
Govt 755 Seminar in Politics and Bureaucracy
Puad 759 Issues in Local Government Administration*
JLCP 722/GOVT 707 Civil Justice*
JLCP 720/GOVT 728 Behavior of Law*
JLCP 760/GOVT 792 Crime and Crime Policy*
JLCP 761/GOVT 709 Politics of Crime and Security*
JLCP 700/GOVT 726 Theories of Justice*
Govt 810 American Political Development
Govt 811 Advanced Seminar in American Institutions (content varies, to include Presidential Politics, Congressional Behavior, Politics of the Judiciary)
Govt 815 Advanced Seminar in Political Behavior (content varies, to include Political Parties, Electoral Politics, Public Opinion and Voting Behavior, Interest Groups and Lobbying
Govt 820 Advanced Seminar in Political Thought (content varies, to include Contemporary Political Ideologies, Women in Politics
Puad 840 Research Seminar in Policy Governance I *
Puad 841 Research Seminar in Policy Governance II *
Govt 852 Leadership

**Courses for the Field of International Relations and Comparative Politics**

**Required Seminars:**
Govt 631 Seminar in Comparative Politics and Institutions*
Govt 641 Seminar in Global Systems *

**Elective Courses**
Govt 731 Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics: Content to vary over semesters, but to include: courses on: Latin America, Asia, Middle East, Europe and the European Union, Africa, and the Former Soviet Union and Eurasia, and Race and Ethnicity.*
Admission to the Ph.D. Program

Students may apply to the Ph.D. with a bachelor’s or a master’s degree. There will be three tracks for admission to the graduate political science program: with a B.A., with an M.A. from another university, and with a MA in Political Science or an MPA from GMU. For students who have been admitted after the bachelor’s degree, a Faculty Review Committee for the Political Science program, composed of two members from each field with a rotating chair, will review each student’s progress after 30 hours of coursework and determine whether the student may continue their work toward the Ph.D. If this decision is negative, the student will continue to be eligible for the MA degree.

For students admitted with a prior MA degree from another university, up to 30 credits from that degree may be applied toward the Ph.D. requirements. The number of credits that will be accepted will be evaluated by the Political Science Admissions and Awards Committee composed of members from each of the degree specialization fields and the graduate Political Science Program Director. After the student has taken 18 hours in the program, the faculty review committee will consider their progress and determine whether they may continue in the program. At minimum, the last 42 of the 72 hours for the Ph.D. must be earned in the program.

Finally, students who begin the program in the existing terminal MA or MPA degree programs but would like to be considered for the Ph.D. program will be evaluated in a manner similar to students with prior MA degrees from elsewhere. We expect to continue the large terminal MA program with its present admissions standards. There is a need for the terminal MA degree, as shown by enrollment figures noted below, as well as for a more selective Ph.D. program.

Advancement to Candidacy

At the conclusion of their course work, students will take a written Qualifying Examination administered by a faculty committee appointed by the Graduate Director. This exam will be based on the student’s course work and on the reading list prepared for each field. Passing the exam will allow the student to enter into candidacy for the Ph.D. The exam must be completed before the student takes dissertation proposal or dissertation guidance courses. After passing the exam, the student may choose a dissertation committee. At minimum, the chair and one member must be from the Department of Public and International Affairs. One member from a graduate program outside the University may serve on the committee at the option of the committee chair. The student must offer a successful public defense of the dissertation proposal before taking dissertation guidance credits. The student must defend the dissertation within 11 years of beginning the program, and 6 years of advancing to candidacy. We anticipate that most full-time students with a B.A. or B.S. degree will graduate in four to six years from entry, depending in the availability of funding.

Program Size
Up to five full-time and five part-time students will be admitted to the Ph.D. program each year. Full time students will, to the greatest extent possible, be offered compensation. Compensation may come from University assistantships and fellowships, faculty research grants, and support arrangements with political and governmental institutions in the Washington, D.C. area as described below. This small number of students will allow us to work closely with these emerging scholars to ensure their timely progress to completion of the program. Beginning with these small numbers will also help us ensure we will be able to place these students well. This plan will allow us to offer on average three to four doctoral-level seminars per semester, based on the assumption that doctoral students will be taking 600 and 700 level courses with MA students, and some MA students will take the doctoral seminars at the 800 level. We expect to maintain our large terminal MA program that admits approximately 24 students per year.

Arrangements for Experiential Learning

Students may assume up to two paid or unpaid semester-long positions in political and governmental institutions relevant to their field with the assistance and approval of the Department. Students will also identify a faculty sponsor for the placement. They will integrate their experiences with seminar learning in a paper at the completion of each semester-long experience that reflects the contributions they have made in the organization and the contribution the organizational work has made to the development of their understanding of government and politics. This paper will be evaluated by the faculty sponsor and should normally be made available to the cooperating organization.

Program Administration

The program will be administered by the Political Science Graduate Director, the Graduate Program Committee, and the Graduate Coordinator who already works with the political science MA program. The Graduate Director takes the lead in proposing policy changes, and in chairing and appointing curriculum and admissions committees, making assistantship appointments, organizing comprehensives-examinations, and making recommendations on Thesis and Dissertation committee membership to the Chair. The Graduate Coordinator administers the program procedures, including responding to information requests, communicating information about requirements and changes in status to students, and tracking application and graduation forms.

Several other faculty committees and assignments will be created. An Admissions and Awards Committee, chaired by the Political Science Graduate Director, will make determinations regarding admissions and the awarding of assistantships and fellowships. Decisions about whether each student has made adequate progress and may continue in the program will be made by a Faculty Review Committee for the Political Science program, composed of two members from each field with a rotating chair. A faculty member will be assigned to facilitate student efforts to find opportunities for experiential learning.

Admission Requirements

Applications will be accepted for the fall semester only. The deadline for receipt of applications materials is February 1. The deadline for applicants who seek financial assistance is January 15. Applicants require a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university for admission. Applicants who have completed a Master’s Degree still need to submit official transcripts of their bachelor’s degree.

Applicants must submit the following materials to the Department for admission considerations:

1. Completed and signed application form
2. A non-refundable application fee
3. The Application for Virginia In-State Tuition Rates, if applicants are Virginia residents
4. Official transcript from each undergraduate and graduate program attended
5. Three letters of recommendation letters from faculty members or those who can evaluate the applicant’s academic potential
6. A statement of purpose of study
7. Graduate Record Exam scores
8. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for international applicants
9. Writing sample such as a full length research paper
Financial Assistance

We hope to make financial assistance available to Ph.D. students at competitive levels. Support for students is expected to come from three sources: teaching assistantships and fellowships sponsored by the University for Ph.D. programs; externally funded research assistantships for projects directed by Departmental faculty; and research associate positions supported by outside sponsors such as non-governmental organizations, research institutes, consulting organizations, and governmental agencies. Assistantships positions will normally be available only to full-time students. Teaching and research assistantships will normally be offered for three years so long as the student continues to make satisfactory degree progress. Because teaching experience is essential preparation for success in a teaching position, each student should have some teaching experience as a teaching assistant, and so should spend some time as a full-time student. A non-credit short-course in effective teaching techniques will be team-taught by department faculty.

The program will also solicit funding support from sponsors in the Northern Virginia and the capital region. These latter may be linked to the institutional experience for students and may be used to fund dissertation research. The sponsor will provide funding for research associates who will work with the sponsoring organization on research and educational projects that are useful to the sponsor. The sponsor will receive the benefit of the student’s services and the student will receive not only financial support, but also valuable experience and the opportunity to conduct research and gather data for a thesis and dissertation. Sponsors will fund fellowships through the University’s Development Office by providing “immediate use” funds to the University.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Graduates from the program will demonstrate superior academic skills in the field of Political Science. They will complete introductory courses in four fields of the discipline and then develop a major and minor concentration from among the fields or American Politics and International Relations and Comparative Politics. Students will also apply their classroom learning in positions appropriate to their scholarly interests throughout the Washington D.C. community if they avail themselves of the opportunity for institutional experience. In addition to completing their coursework and passing a qualifying examination in their area of specialization, students must demonstrate proficiency in both statistics and quantitative methods or one foreign language. These requirements are distinct from the research methodology requirements of the degree. By the time students reach candidacy, they will possess the quantitative and/or qualitative skills to design an original research project for their doctoral dissertation. All dissertations satisfying the requirements for graduation will make an independent scholarly contribution to the academic discipline of Political Science. Students will be able to present their research findings in both written and oral formats.

Assessment of Student Learning

Doctoral students and candidates will be assessed in a number of ways throughout the program. Scholarly ability will be evaluated through course grading in seminar-style classes, with a focus on the research projects students produce. Oral and written skills will be considered in course grading. Students will be evaluated by a faculty review committee after 30 hours (18 hours for those entering with an MA degree) to assess their suitability for Ph.D. work. After students have completed their coursework and demonstrated proficiency in either statistics or a foreign language, they will be required to take a Qualifying Examination in their area of specialization. After advancing to candidacy, a committee of faculty will evaluate the dissertation proposal for originality, feasibility, comprehensiveness, and its likelihood to make a scholarly contribution to the field. The dissertation itself will be assessed using the same rigorous criteria. Only research projects that make an original and positive contribution to the fundamental understanding of government and politics will be deemed to satisfy the dissertation requirement for the doctorate.

Benchmarks of the Program’s Success

The program’s goal is to train excellent and effective scholars in Political Science. The director of the doctoral program will continuously monitor and evaluate progress towards the fulfillment of this goal. Specific benchmarks for success will be based upon the program’s ability to attract high-quality applicants, the timely graduation of qualified students, and job market placement.
Given the success of the Master’s program in Political Science at George Mason, it is anticipated that the doctoral program will receive many academically qualified applications for admission. If projected enrollment targets are not met, additional forms of program advertising will be undertaken. The quality of applicants will be measured against comparable doctoral programs in Political Science.

The projected length of the program for a full-time student without a prior Master’s degree is four to six years. The director of the doctoral program will monitor the progress of enrolled students and ensure that the curriculum offered enables a timely graduation. The percentage of Ph.D. students graduated will be compared to a rate commensurate with similar doctoral programs in the discipline.

Follow-up surveys will evaluate the success of graduated students in the job market. Those individuals who enter the program in mid-career will most likely derive the benefit of promotion upon completion of the doctorate. For students who desire to enter academia, relevant faculty will assist graduates with obtaining a tenure-track or term appointment job at an appropriate institution of higher learning.

Additionally, every seven years, a committee of prominent external political scientists will be assembled to evaluate the effectiveness of the doctoral program in Political Science. Areas for improvement will be suggested and implemented when feasible. It is anticipated that as the program continues, higher benchmarks in the areas of admission requirements and job placement will be developed and applied.
Expansion of Existing Program and Collaboration

The proposed Ph.D. program is not an expansion of an existing program. We now offer the MA in Political Science.

The program is not to be offered in collaboration with external academic institutions, but we will collaborate with other programs within the university, notably the MPA program and the Justice, Law, and Crime Policy Ph.D. with which we have numerous cross-listed courses.

Program Responds to Needs

The political science undergraduate program in the Department of Public and International Affairs is one of the largest in the university at least in part because of the prominence of government and public affairs in the capital area. With the growing sophistication of government, students are seeking opportunities for advanced training in the analytic skills and conceptual understanding that the proposed program offers. That the well-educated Northern Virginia population needs and desires a Ph.D. program in Political Science is evidenced in part by the immediate success of the MA degree program in attracting large numbers of well-qualified students. The frequent inquiries to the Department about the availability of a doctoral program provide additional anecdotal evidence of the unmet need for the program. A number of our MA students have expressed an interest in seeking a Ph.D., and some have gone on to other universities to enter programs. Situated next to the nation’s capital, GMU is also in a unique position in Virginia to offer a Ph.D. program with easy access to the range of organizations that are active in public and international affairs. In addition GMU has the potential to attract highly qualified students who wish to remain in the area. Finally, university plans call for the development of doctoral programs in well-developed departments. The Department of Public and International Affairs with its broad faculty resources and abundant links to national political and governmental institutions is well suited to this task. While there are certainly other Ph.D. granting programs in D.C. metro area, the combination of our established record with master’s level programs in Political Science and Public Administration, our course specialties and opportunities for combining scholarship and experience, our location, and our affordability will make us competitive and successful.

Justification for the Proposed Program

Evidence of Employer Demand for Graduates

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) offers a projection of the labor market for Ph.D.s in postsecondary education for the period from 2002 to 2012. Over the decade, they estimate a 38% increase in positions, approximately 603,000 additional Ph.D.-level jobs anticipated by 2012. Projections for openings for Ph.D. level postsecondary teachers nationally is estimated at 95,980 openings annually for both new jobs and net replacement.1 Though BLS does not provide figures for the occupational outlook for Ph.D.-level political scientists specifically, Virginia does supply this information. Overall, the Virginia Employment Commission’s projection from 1998 to 2008 predicts a 42.10% increase in new positions and replacements in all fields in college and university faculty positions over the ten year period.2 This translates to 1,592 openings a year in new growth and replacement positions. For political science, the numbers of new positions are projected to grow from 344 to 475 over the ten-year period, an increase of 38%. This represents a projection of 23 openings a year for new and replacement positions for Ph.D. level political scientists in Virginia colleges and universities. This is clear evidence that there will be opportunities for our graduates in academia.

In a study of academic jobs in political science sponsored by the American Political Science Association, Sue Davis found that first listings of jobs in the APSA Personnel Service Newsletter (PSN) showed a relative growth trend for the three academic years: 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and 2001-2002.3 According to her study, in 1998-99, there were 880 first listings; in 1999-2000 there were 1002 first listings, in 2000-2001 there were 1119 listings; and in 2001-02 an estimated of 1050 first listings. This indicates a steady growth in first listings in PSN since 1995-96 when there were only 616 first listings. These positions are generally listings for four- year colleges and universities. From 23 percent to 28

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percent of Ph.D. holders between 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 found employment in Ph.D. granting institutions. These figures may underestimate the number of community college positions, perhaps because the community colleges do not typically launch a nation-wide search. In Virginia, as in other states, community colleges are expected to grow to provide for the surge of students expected over the next decade.

In addition, political scientists work in other sectors, in government, in political research and polling, in political advocacy, and in media and writing. Virginia expects only modest increases in employment in government with a 1.25% increase for state government services employment, 1.61% in local government services, and only .94% for the federal government. It should be noted however that these projections were made before the enlargements of government, especially at the federal level, connected with counter-terrorism. This growth may mean increases over these earlier projections in counter-terrorism programs, intelligence, and national security, fields that call on the skills of political scientists in international relations and comparative politics particularly.

Our proposed program offers specializations in American Government, Comparative Politics and International Relations, fields that offer the best teaching opportunities for our graduates. Davis’ study showed that, by field, the placement classes for 2000 and 2001 are roughly 30 percent American government, 26 percent Comparative politics, 21 percent International Relations, compared to 11 percent political theory, 6 percent public policy, and 1 percent methodology.

Evidence of Student Demand

Our experience with the new MA in Political Science provides an example of the pool of potential candidates for our Ph.D. program and evidence of the desire of students for the program. Our new program has been in existence as the MA or MAIS for three years. It has been extremely successful in attracting well-qualified applicants. For our first cohort of students, 2002-2003, we had 39 applicants, and 26 of the accepted students enrolled. In the second year, we had 50 applications and 26 students enrolled. For the 2004-2005 cohort, there were 69 applications and 27 of the accepted students enrolled.

Overall the number of applicants and the quality of their credentials has been growing each year. We expect the MA program to enroll 24 new students each year. This will also add to the pool of qualified applicants for positions in the Ph.D. program. We have anecdotal evidence that some of these students would apply for the Ph.D. if it were offered, and that some accepted students have not enrolled because we do not offer the Ph.D.

Projected Headcounts and FTE students

We anticipate that at the end of five years we will have gained stable enrollments of around 40-45 FTE students in the Ph.D. program each year, with five or six graduating. To make this projection we assume that we will admit five full-time and five part-time students to the Ph.D. program each year. These figures would increase slightly if some students who begin the program in one of the terminal masters programs do very well and are recommended for the Ph.D. as well. We assume that some will leave voluntarily or as a result of poor work so that in any cohort, one full-time and one part-time student will leave by the end of the second year. Thereafter the remaining students will continue in the program, with one full-time student graduating after four years, and three more after five years, two part-time students graduating after five years, and three more after six years. These assumptions are based on our experience with students in other programs at GMU.

Other Programs in the State

It appears reasonable to expect that there will be a demand for Ph.D. level graduate work in political science in Northern Virginia. The University of Virginia is the only institution, public or private, offering a Ph.D. degree in Political Science in Virginia. The University of Virginia and Old Dominion University also offer Ph.D.s in International Relations or

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4 “Institutions that Grant Ph.D.s in Political Science,” The American Political Science Association Online, [http://www.apsanet.org/opps/grad/Ph.D.programs](http://www.apsanet.org/opps/grad/Ph.D.programs).
5 Virginia Employment Commission, *op. cit.*
6 Institutions that Grant Ph.D.s, *op. cit.*
Affairs, interdisciplinary programs with some elements of political science. The headcounts and graduation rates for these programs are described below. Data are from the SCHEV website.

Washington, D.C. does have five, private Ph.D. granting institutions: American University, the Catholic University of America, George Washington University, Georgetown University, and Howard University. There are no Ph.D. programs in Northern Virginia in political science offered by a state-supported institution. Thus there appears to be an opportunity for George Mason University to offer its own Ph. D. program in Political Science in Northern Virginia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UVA-Pol Sci</th>
<th>UVA International Relations/Affairs</th>
<th>ODU International Relations/Affairs</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>35</td>
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<td>2001-02</td>
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<td>2002-03</td>
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Summary of Projected Enrollments in the Proposed Program

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<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
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<tr>
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<td>HDCT 24</td>
<td>HDCT T 10</td>
<td>HDCT 43</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTES 7.5</td>
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<td>FTES 27</td>
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<td>4 FT</td>
<td>4 FT</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5 PT</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projected Resource Needs

**Full-time and Part-time Faculty Positions**

We anticipate an increase of 3-4 seminars a semester, and an increase in individualized instruction for independent research and doctoral dissertation guidance. This will strain the teaching resources of the department unless two more positions, in the most heavily populated fields, International and Comparative Politics and American Government, are added. We have breadth and depth in the three fields in which we propose to offer specializations, but we also have very heavy teaching loads at the undergraduate and master’s levels. To shoulder these loads while still maintaining our long-standing commitment to offering the undergraduates our best teaching resources, we will need two additional positions for optimal staffing. This estimate is based on the expectation of eventually offering four doctoral level seminars and numerous independent research sections each semester.

These positions should be full-time tenure-track positions, because the long-term commitments to doctoral students can best be assured with these faculty. Some additional undergraduate teaching will be contributed by graduate teaching assistants, but it takes several semesters acting as a teaching assistant before graduate students are prepared to offer a small class section of their own. Additionally, it is essential to put experienced faculty in introductory courses to attract new majors and maintain our reputation.

**Graduate Assistants and Targeted Financial Aid**

As noted above, we hope to support the full-time students who enter the Ph.D. program in order to encourage their rapid progress to completion of the degree. Providing teaching assistantships would help do this and prepare them for teaching positions upon completion of the degree. Increasingly, publications and teaching experience are requirements for good job placements. We hope to gain funding for two additional assistantships per year for the first three years of the students work, for a total of six additional assistantships. Support for other students will come from existing teaching assistantships and from new or continuing externally funded research assistantships from faculty research grants and contracts. After three years, we plan to help students find support for dissertation writing, including sponsored research associate positions in relevant organizations in the Northern Virginia and the capital region. Other sources of funding for graduate students at the course work and dissertation stages will be sought from program grants from such institutions as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and other local and national organizations.

** Classified Positions**
An additional one-half of an administrative assistant for the Ph.D. program will be needed. Currently, a half of the time of the graduate coordinator is devoted to the MA and half to our very large MPA. As the MA program grows and as the Ph.D. program administration duties are added, another half of a position will be needed.

**Library**

We will continue to work with the library to build print and electronic book and journal collections appropriate for the current and additional programs in the Department of Public and International Affairs. We will seek out the special collections needed for advanced work, such as membership access to the Human Relations Area Files. Collections are building steadily, and we do not anticipate asking for extraordinary funds for acquisitions at this point.

**Equipment, Including Computers, and Space**

We do expect that the program will require the purchase of computers for full-time students, beginning with five and eventually reach approximately eighteen. The students should also have office space. Teaching assistants need office space to meet students and good academic program culture requires that students have some shared space to work, conduct their research, meet, and debate.

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**PROJECTED RESOURCE NEEDS FOR PROPOSED PROGRAM**

**Part A: Answer the following questions about general budget information.**

- Has or will the institution submit an addendum budget request to cover one-time costs? Yes_____ No__x___
- Has or will the institution submit an addendum budget request to cover operating costs? Yes_____ No__x___
- Will there be any operating budget requests for this program that would exceed normal operating budget guidelines (for example, unusual faculty mix, faculty salaries, or resources)? Yes_____ No__x___
- Will each type of space for the proposed program be within projected guidelines? Yes__x___ No____
- Will a capital outlay request in support of this program be forthcoming? Yes_____ No__x___

**Part B: Fill in the number of FTE positions needed for the program.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Program initiation year 2006 - 2007</th>
<th>Total expected by target enrollment year 2010 - 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On-going and reallocated</td>
<td>Added (New)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time faculty</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time faculty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Assistants</td>
<td></td>
<td>GTA 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GRA 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classified Positions</td>
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<td>.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* One new, full-time faculty to be added in the year of initiation and one additional position in the year after that.

**Funded at one GRA a year, up to 3 GRAs total, to begin in the year of program initiation.
**Part C: Estimated $$ resources to initiate and operate the program.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Program initiation year 2006 - 2007</th>
<th>Total expected by target enrollment year 201- 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time faculty</td>
<td>$50,000*</td>
<td>$ 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time faculty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate assistants</td>
<td>GTA $35,790**</td>
<td>GTA $107,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GRA $22,000***</td>
<td>GRA $ 66,000***</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classified positions</td>
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<td>$13,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fringe benefits</td>
<td>$25,557</td>
<td>$53,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total personnel costs</td>
<td>$146,347</td>
<td>$339,432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Targeted financial aid</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Telecommunication costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other resource needs (specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$146,347</td>
<td>$ 339,432</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*One faculty position to be added in the year of initiation and one the next year.
** Assumes one in-state and one out-of-state tuition waiver
*** Fringe not calculated for GRAs

**Part D: Certification Statement(s)**

The institution will require additional state funding to initiate and sustain this program.

[ ] Yes ____________________________  ____________________________

Signature of Chief Academic Officer

[ X ] No ____________________________  ____________________________

Signature of Chief Academic Officer

If “no,” please complete Items 1, 2, and 3 below.

1. Estimated $$ and funding source to initiate and operate the program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Program initiation year 2006 - 2007</th>
<th>Target enrollment year 2010 - 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reallocation within the department or school <em>(Note below the impact this will have within the school or department.)</em></td>
<td>$124,347</td>
<td>$273,432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reallocation within the institution <em>(Note below the impact this will have within the school or department.)</em></td>
<td>$22,000</td>
<td>$66,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other funding sources <em>(Please specify and note if these are currently available or anticipated.)</em></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. Statement of Impact/Other Funding Sources.

The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has agreed to fund two new, full-time faculty positions for the program, as well as one half-time administrative assistant. The College has also agreed to fund graduate assistantships, (two initially for a total of six by the target year) from the centrally allocated pool. We may also be able for fund additional assistantships and some targeted financial aid from faculty grant and contract funds, but since we do not have specific sources now, we have not put these in the table above. The Provost’s Office has agreed to fund one new, three-year High Potential GRA (at a cost of approximately $22,000 per year) for each new PhD program. By the target year, three High Potential GRAs will be supported.

### 3. Secondary Certification.

If resources are reallocated from another unit to support this proposal, the institution will **not** subsequently request additional state funding to restore those resources for their original purpose.

__X__ Agree  
______________________________
Signature of Chief Academic Officer

_____ Disagree  
______________________________
Signature of Chief Academic Officer