Master of Professional Studies in Public Leadership

How To Apply

Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning.
- Cumulative undergraduate GPA 3.0 or higher.

Required Application Materials

- A non-refundable application fee of $75.00 (paid by credit card online). The application fee is waived only for the following applicants:
  - GW alumni (those holding a GW degree or graduate certificate)
  - Current degree or certificate students at GW
  - Current McNair Program Scholars (Application fee waiver form is available at [http://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/mcnair-scholars](http://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/mcnair-scholars))
  - U.S. military personnel who have been on active duty within three years of submitting their application for admission.
  - Students participating in the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program
- A completed online application.
- Official or certified copies of academic records from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. An official detailed evaluation is required for an international transcript showing all course work, grades, and proof of the earned degree from the non-U.S. institution attended. The evaluation should also determine whether the degree earned is equivalent to a U.S. degree. A list of acceptable foreign credential evaluation services is available through National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). Credentials evaluations are also accepted from AACRAO.
- Statement of Purpose – In an essay of 250-500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in this field and describe your academic goals and objectives, including how you believe this degree will enhance your professional/career goals. Also, discuss your related qualifications, such as collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application form. You may also include a potential area of focus for the organization performance improvement cluster of courses.
- Writing Sample – Your success in graduate school is largely a factor of your ability to analyze, synthesize, and communicate your consideration of an issue clearly and effectively through your writing. We therefore ask that you submit a writing sample as part of your admissions package, since we do not require the GRE. Your writing sample should be an example of your best written work. It should reflect your ability to evaluate an issue critically, as well as your ability to communicate that
issue effectively in writing, including the correct citation of the sources you have used to develop your argument. The sample should reflect clear, logical consideration of your subject matter with some conclusion or recommendation reflecting your viewpoint.

Previously completed 5-20 page research papers, white papers, articles, policy briefs, etc. are acceptable for submission. If you prefer, you may write a 1000 to 1200-word essay that addresses one of the following topics in lieu of submitting a previously written sample:

1. What are the biggest problems facing the United States’ Kindergarten -12th grade educational system? What factors are driving those problems and what should we be doing at the national/state/local level to address them? What are the leadership implications for the recommended actions?

2. Many government organizations are facing a significant threat from the potential mass exodus of baby boomers as they reach retirement age. Assuming this a legitimate concern, what are the implications for organizational effectiveness? What should organizational leaders be doing to address this concern?

3. Detroit, Michigan, is the latest example of municipal governments in the throes of economic crisis. Given the multiple and varied interests of the stakeholders involved (current citizens, government leaders, businesses, employees, both current and retired, employee unions, etc.), what would you recommend as an approach to dealing with this situation?

- Current resume with education and work history.
- Three letters of recommendations, preferably one from a current supervisor and the other from an academic reference.
- GRE scores are not required, except in special cases where an applicant has not had at least 5 years of professional experience.
- Submission of the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the academic Pearsons Test of English (PTE) for applicants who are not citizens of countries where English is the official language. In addition to the United States, the countries where English is the official language are listed here.

Exceptions to this policy may be granted to applicants who:

- Hold a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree from an institution in which English is the language of instruction and the official language of the country in which the university is located, or
- Hold a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree from an institution that is accredited by a U.S. regional accrediting agency (see list of acceptable schools).

Additionally, applicants to the LL.M. or S.J.D. program whose first law degree was taught solely in English are not required to submit TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE scores.

English language test scores (TOEFL, IELTS, and PTE) may not be more than two years old. To ensure
TOEFL scores are sent to GW, please use institutional code 5246. An institutional code is not required to send IELTS or PTE scores to GW.

**English Language Minimum Scores**

To be considered for admission, the minimum required scores are as follows:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 6.0 with no individual score below 5.0.
- TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based test.
- PTE Academic: 53.

**GW English for Academic Purposes**

In their first semester at GW, students are required to register for an English for Academic Purposes (EAP) course. The EAP course that is required will be indicated in the student’s letter of admission. In the first EAP class meeting, students will be given the EAP Diagnostic Test in order to confirm their correct EAP placement. Students assigned EAP courses should anticipate additional tuition expenses as well as a possible extended period of time required to complete their degree programs.

Students with the following English-language scores are exempt from taking EAP courses:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual band score below 6.0.
- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based.
- PTE Academic: 68.

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**Application Deadline**

**Summer—March 1**

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**Instructions for Completing the Graduate Online Application**

I. The Online Application can be accessed at:

https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=GWUGRAD

II. The Online Application System Requirements

- Supported web browsers include Internet Explorer 7, 8 & 9 (Windows), Firefox 3.6 & 7 (Mac), Firefox 3 and 7 (Windows), Chrome 12 (Windows and Mac), Safari 4 & 5 (Mac), and Safari 5 (Windows), (Macintosh users – OSX).
- If you are using Internet Explorer 6, we strongly recommend upgrading to version 9 as version 6 does not meet the system’s minimum security requirements.
- Make sure the following browser settings are enabled:
  - JavaScript must be enabled.
Popup blockers must be disabled.

- You will need Adobe Reader 6.0 or higher to download, view and print PDF files.
- You must logout of the online application after each session.

III. User Login Account

- Create your applicant account if you are new to the online application and do not already have a User Name.
- If you previously requested information about our graduate programs or registered for/or attended an event: You may already have credentials that you can use for the online application process. To retrieve your credentials, please click on the “Forgot your User Name or Password?” link located within the User Login” box on the right-hand side. Your login information will be sent to your email address.
- If you previously applied to GW or if you are applying to more than one program: You will need to create a separate (new) application account and submit an application for each program. You must use a different e-mail address for each account created.

IV. Completing the Online Application

- Complete the application forms. Make sure to complete each section of the application and protect your application by saving your work often.

- You do not have to complete the online application in one sitting—you may access your application and change your answers as many times as you like, using your username and Password from any computer with Internet access.

- Applicants will expedite the application process by using the following information in the “Admissions Information” form:
  - This application is for: (Select Entry Term and Entry Year)
  - Attendance Status and Location: (Select Full time or Part time)
  - Please indicate the campus you plan to attend: Online Education
  - School: College of Professional Studies
  - Field of Study: Public Leadership
  - Degree: Master of Professional Studies

- Complete the online recommendation form. We encourage that providers submit online recommendations instead of in paper copy.

How the online recommendation process works:

- Click the "Recommendation Provider List" button in the “Recommendation” form and click the “Add” button.
- Complete the information for each Recommendation Provider.
- When asked if the letters of recommendation will be submitted online, select the "Yes" option.
- Once the Recommendation Provider information is saved, an email will be sent to the online Recommendation Provider with an access code and instructions on how to proceed with the online recommendation.
- When the Recommendation Provider submits the form to our office it will become a part of your application.
- You can view the status of your online recommendations each time you log into your application account.

- To upload your statement of purpose, please click the 'upload' button in the “Statement of Purpose” form. If your upload is successful, you will see a 'view document' button and a 'delete' button appear next to the question.

- To upload your resume, please click the 'upload' button in the “Employment History” form. If your upload is successful, you will see a 'view document' button and a 'delete' button appear next to the question.

- To submit results of TOEFL or IELTS or PTE, please indicate the month and year you took, or plan to take and the Total score of TOEFL in the “Required Tests” form. Use institutional code 5246 to have your TOEFL scores sent to the University. An institutional code is not required for IELTS and PTE.

- Use the “Check Your Application” section to verify the completeness of your application before it is submitted. If all required fields are not complete, the system will identify which questions still need answers. Please note that this section refers only to the minimum number of questions required by the system before submission is allowed. There may be many other questions on the form that should also be answered; thus, please be sure you have fully responded to both required and relevant non-required items before you submit your application.

- Click the Submit Application button to submit your application when you have completed all of the required forms. At that point you will be given instructions on how to pay the required application fee. You may pay the application fee online via credit card. You will be able to make your payment ONLY after you have completed the application and are in the submission process.

V. Transcripts

Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended could be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission. Please submit these transcripts and any hard copies of documents to:

The College of Professional Studies
Office of Admissions
The George Washington University
1925 Ballenger Ave, Suite 250
Alexandria, VA  22314

eSCRIP-SAFE, Parchment Exchange, and National Student Clearinghouse  electronic transcripts will also be accepted if your institution participates in these services.

An official detailed evaluation showing all course work, grades, credit hours, and proof of the earned degree is required for all transcripts from non-U.S. institutions. The evaluation should also determine whether the degree earned is equivalent to a U.S. degree and must be completed by one of our approved evaluation services. A list of acceptable foreign credential evaluation services is available through National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). Credentials evaluations are also accepted from AACRAO. If the international transcript is in a language other than English, a certified English translation must be provided.
VI. Check Status of Application Online

- You may check the status of your application at any time by logging in to the online application system:
  https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=GWUGRAD

- When checking the status of your supporting documents, please note that it takes 2-3 business days after the receipt of your documents to post their receipt online.

VII. Financial Aid

Please check “yes” to question #18 on the application. This will prompt the GW Office of Student Financial Assistance to send you the financial aid forms. You can contact the GW Office of Student Financial Assistance for information about loan options and other available forms of financial aid:

- On the web: http://colonialcentral.gwu.edu
- By phone: 202-994-6620
- By email: finaid@gwu.edu

You must be a US citizen, permanent resident or refugee to apply for need-based financial aid. The priority deadlines for completing your application for Federal Stafford, Graduate PLUS, and/or alternative loan funding are listed below. Completing your application by these dates will ensure that your loan funds will arrive at the beginning of the requested semester(s).

Summer Deadline – March 1st

VIII. Student Veteran Services

GW Yellow Ribbon Program

- For more information on Student Veteran Services and GW Yellow Ribbon program, please visit, http://colonialcentral.gwu.edu/Registrar/VeteranServices

- Contact Information:
  - Phone | (202) 994-9570
  - Email | vetserve@gwu.edu

VIII. Questions

- Check the Graduate Admissions FAQs at http://cps.gwu.edu/frequently-asked-questions. These are the answers to many common questions regarding our application and admissions process.

- If you have some questions or need further assistance with your application, please do not hesitate to contact us via phone (703-299-6782) or e-mail (applycps@gwu.edu).