



Davidson in Washington Summer 2024

What: An eight-week program in Washington, D.C. Students receive a full course credit for a seminar - either “Bridging Divides in American Politics,” taught by Prof. Graham Bullock or “Policymaking and the Administrative State” taught by Prof. Katherine Bersch. Students also receive a second course credit for a full-time, supervised internship of the student’s choosing.

When: Summer 2024, June 11 – August 1

Who: Thirty-five to fifty students. Admission is competitive. Rising sophomores, juniors and seniors may apply for the program (with preference to more senior students). Eligibility is NOT limited to political science majors; students who have yet to declare a major and those majoring in another discipline are encouraged to apply. Participants are required to have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

How: Complete the application form. Link will be available on the Davidson in Washington website by October 1.

The application deadline is Friday, November 10, 2023 by 5pm.

Cost: Tuition for the program will be approximately \$4500. All living expenses & travel are the responsibility of the student. There are a wide range of housing options including summer housing in [George Washington University dorms](#) (\$2000 to \$3200 depending on the type of room). *Both merit-based and need-based financial aid are available to help – in some cases substantially – to defray these costs.*

The Seminars: The 2024 seminar descriptions are below:

"Bridging Divides in American Politics" (Bullock)

While partisanship and polarization are an enduring feature in American politics, concern about the levels of animosity and political sectarianism has risen dramatically in recent years. In this seminar, we will explore different efforts to understand, explore, and bridge the political, social, and economic divides that some believe threaten the future of democracy in the United States. These efforts include bridge-building initiatives led by elected officials in Congress, policymakers in federal agencies, lobbyists for different interest groups, policy analysts at think tanks, and even curators at the Smithsonian. The course will apply political science concepts to examining the opportunities and challenges facing these efforts. Are these efforts worthwhile? What is working, what isn't, and how can they be improved? We will address these questions by investigating specific cases, including bipartisan initiatives such as the Problem Solvers Caucus in the US House of Representatives and organizations such as No Labels, Unite America, Braver Angels, and the Forward Party. The course will include guest speakers with expertise and experience related to these efforts.

This seminar will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for approximately 2 hours. This course counts as one of the 10 required courses for the Political Science major, but does not satisfy any of the four sub-field requirements.

"Policymaking and the Administrative State" (Bersch)

In this seminar, we will explore policymaking within the executive branch. Given that federal agencies now account for 90 percent of U.S. law through their rulemaking, understanding the politics of bureaucratic policymaking is crucial to understanding democracy. Indeed, questions from across the political spectrum about decision-makers within the executive branch have gained prominence in an era characterized by concerns about the imperial presidency and the federal bureaucracy sometimes referred to as the 'deep state.' Throughout the course, students will examine the causes and consequences of the rise in executive policymaking, its implications for democracy, and its impact on various policy areas such as health, immigration, and the environment. They will also explore the role of the President, Congress, and other actors in the administrative state. The course employs a case study method and will feature guest speakers with expertise in the policymaking process.

This seminar will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for approximately 2 hours. This course counts as one of the 10 required courses for the Political Science major, but does not satisfy any of the four sub-field requirements.

The Internship: With the assistance of the Center for Career Development, you can apply and serve as an intern in Washington area offices. We are also open to credit being earned through remote internships, including with organizations outside the Washington area. You should discuss internships you are considering with Prof. Bersch or Prof. Bullock. Each student is responsible for arranging their full-time internship with a government office, political party, research institute, trade or industry association, public interest non-profit organization, or similar organization. At the end of the internship, each student will write an 8-10 page analytical paper about the internship experience and the role of the organization in the political process. Participants receive a pass-fail grade for this component of the program. This course can count as one of the 10 required courses for the Political Science requirements but does not satisfy any of the four sub-field requirements. Here is a [list](#) of recent DIW internships.

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For more information about the program, visit the Political Science [website](#) or email either Dr. Bullock ([grbullock@davidson.edu](mailto:grbullock@ davidson.edu)) or Dr. Bersch (kabersch@davidson.edu).

Getting Started:

I. Finding An Internship

- Resources available from the Center for Career Development (including a scheduled meeting with CCD staff for accepted students by the end of the fall semester)
- List of recent DIW internships available at the Davidson in Washington website, <https://www.davidson.edu/academic-departments/political-science/internships-careers-and-graduate-school/davidson-washington/davidson-washington-internships>
- Online lists of offices and think tanks in DC
- Davidson Alumni in DC (resources from Alumni Office)

II. Finding Housing

- George Washington University, at <http://summerhousing.gwu.edu>
- Georgetown University, at <https://residentialiving.georgetown.edu/summer/>
- Georgetown Law, at <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/your-life-career/housing/summer-housing/>.
- Other local university housing offices (Catholic, Howard, etc.)
- Sublets through *Washington Post*, online roommate and apartment finder services
- Davidson Alumni in DC (resources from Alumni Office)

The 2024 Davidson in Washington Program
Tentative Schedule

November 10	Applications due at 5pm.
December 1	Accepted applicants notified.
Mid-December	Financial aid and scholarship awards announced.
Winter Break	Applicants begin searching for internships (but encouraged to start earlier). Make sure to note application deadlines per individual opportunities.
January 26	Non-refundable program deposit due (\$450) at 5pm.
April 12	Balance of tuition due.
April and May	Submit internship details to Prof. Bullock and Prof. Bersch; finalize internship, travel, and housing.
May 3	Deadline for approval of internships.