

Unit Profile

Research at the Schar School is a Mission, a Duty, a Priority. Schar School faculty conduct world-class research, scholarship, and creative work that's recognized across the nation and around the world. As one of the top research universities in the nation, holding an [R1 designation](#) from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, George Mason is the largest public research university in Virginia, and accounts for almost 60 percent of the growth of higher education in the commonwealth.

Sound leadership and management are vital to governmental effectiveness. The Schar School is premised on a healthy synergy of theory and application. The fields of public policy and administration and political science were founded by “pracademics” who aspired to achieve the integration of teaching and research with the communities of practice.

Our faculty tackle a plethora of real-world challenges. Known for innovative and influential scholarship, our experts conduct innovative research in the policy, administrative and social sciences that seek to inform policy makers and citizens about the dynamic world of politics and public affairs. The range of multi and transdisciplinary research includes international security, emergency management, critical infrastructure, commerce, and transportation logistics.

Much of our incredible research done would not be possible without the support of extramural funding. Our success in garnering grants is a direct result of the quality of our faculty and their determined efforts to seek funding for projects that are essential for the successful functioning of governance and society. Our research is supported by a wide-ranging community of sponsors across all levels of governance, as well as private sector entities. The Schar School also had meaningful partnerships with many foundations, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions worldwide.

External funding also plays a critical role in funding graduate assistantships that attract students to George Mason and keep our commonwealth, region, and nation at the forefront of today's knowledge economy. Schar School graduate students also collaborate with faculty and contribute to research by participating in sponsored projects, sharing their work at research conferences, and publishing articles and reports.