

# Washington Semester in Leadership and Governance Summer 2023

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- Director:** Matthew Dull ([mdull@vt.edu](mailto:mdull@vt.edu))
- Dates:** May 22 - August 4, 2023
- Location:** [Virginia Tech Research Center](#)  
900 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203
- Apply here:** [SPIA Washington Semester Application](#)

## Program Overview

This Washington Semester in Leadership and Governance (WSLG) is a **9-credit** summer program for undergraduates that combines a 10-week Washington, DC-area internship, policy seminar, and field study experiences immersing participants in the world of policymakers, public servants, beltway bandits, and others who make the DC-area a unique place to work and live.

## Internship (UAP/PSCI 4964) - 6-credits

Washington Semester students participate in 10-week, full-time (Monday-Friday) internships. An internship agreement detailing responsibilities, expectations, and objectives relative to student learning or skill development is prepared and signed by the intern, onsite supervisor, and Washington Semester internship coordinator. In general, the internship experience should be consistent with the student's professional goals, related to the major program of study, and integrated into the full range of activities and responsibilities of the organization. Supervisors complete two evaluation forms, one midway through the program and one at the conclusion of

the internship. Course evaluation will be based on employer evaluations, complete and timely journals, final internship portfolios including examples of work completed, and reflective essays.

### **Policy Seminar (UAP/PSCI 4644) - 3-credits**

Washington semester students participate in a policy seminar that will meet in-person at the Virginia Tech Research Center selected Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm. The classroom policy seminar bridges classroom learning about policy evidence and separated powers with field study experiences exploring the Washington, DC area. The seminar is organized around four modules:

- **Module 1 - Constructing Evidence in Policy Debate** explores processes for creating, communicating, and consuming quantitative and visual evidence in policy debate.
- **Module 2 - Policy Evidence in Urban Governance** explores a specific policy issue as a case study of advocacy, collaboration, and problem-solving in local government.
- **Module 3 - Government Oversight in Action** explores how national-level oversight institutions create evidence vital to the constitutional separation of powers.
- **Module 4 - Final Policy Briefings** focuses on the development and delivery of a short briefing examining a policy problem, project, or proposal.

Evaluation of coursework is based on participation, a series of written memos, participant briefings, and a regular student journal reflecting on course themes and experiences.

In addition to classroom seminar meetings, Washington semester participants help lead a series of unique Washington, DC-area experiences, engaging with policy professionals, touring Pennsylvania Avenue, Capitol Hill, Rock Creek Park, Old Town Alexandria, and exploring DC-area neighborhoods like Ballston, VA to Petworth, DC. Participants reflect on field study experiences through student-organized debriefings and written journal narratives.



LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES  
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# WSLG Summer 2023 Schedule

Date	Meeting/Event/Deadline
Tuesday, November 15, 2022 10:00-11:00am	Information Session <a href="https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/84890347414">https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/84890347414</a>
Friday, November 18 12:00-1:00pm	Information Session <a href="https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83446714653">https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83446714653</a>
Friday, January 20, 2023 12:00-1:00pm	Information Session <a href="https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/82849136774">https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/82849136774</a>
Monday, January 23 10:00-11:00am	Information Session <a href="https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85308085489">https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85308085489</a>
<b>Tuesday, January 31</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b> <a href="#"><b>APPLY HERE</b></a>
Friday, February 10	Notification of program admission
Wednesday, March 1	Deadline for notification of participation
February-May	Internship advising, applications, and internship agreements
April Date/Time TBD	Program Orientation
<b>Monday, May 22</b>	<b>Internships: Start Date</b>
Tuesday, May 23 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 1: Constructing Policy Evidence <a href="#">@VTRC</a> 900 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA
Thursday, May 25 6:30-8:30pm	Field Study: Pennsylvania Avenue
Tuesday, May 30 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 1: Constructing Policy Evidence

Thursday, June 1 6:30-8:30pm	Field Study: Rock Creek Park
Tuesday, June 6 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 1: Constructing Policy Evidence
Thursday, June 8 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 1: Constructing Policy Evidence
Tuesday, June 13 6:30-8:30pm	Participant Briefing: Presenting Policy Evidence
Thursday, June 15 6:30-8:30pm	Participant Briefing: Presenting Policy Evidence
Tuesday, June 20 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 2: Policy Evidence in Urban Governance
Thursday, June 22 6:30-8:30pm	Field Study: Old Town Alexandria
Monday, June 26	Internship: Midpoint Evaluation
Tuesday, June 27 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 2: Policy Evidence in Urban Governance
Thursday, June 29 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 2: Policy Evidence in Urban Governance
Monday, July 4 6:30-8:30pm	Independence Day
Thursday, July 6 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 3: Government Oversight in Action
Tuesday, July 11 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 3: Government Oversight in Action
Thursday, July 13 6:30-8:30pm	Field Study: TBD
Tuesday, July 18 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 3: Government Oversight in Action
Thursday, July 20 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 4: Developing Policy Briefings

Tuesday, July 25 6:30-8:30pm	Seminar Module 4: Developing Policy Briefings
Thursday, July 27 6:30-8:30pm	Participant Presentations
Tuesday, August 1 6:30-8:30pm	Participant Presentations
Thursday, August 3 6:30-8:30pm	Field Study: TBD
<b>Friday, August 4</b>	<b>Internship: Conclusion Date</b>
Wednesday, August 9	Internship Portfolios Due
Friday, August 11	Internship Evaluations Due
Monday, August 13	Final Grades Submitted