

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Schar School of Policy and Government

Education Policy: Spring 2023 Course Schedule

1. P-12 Policy Challenges (EDPO 601) / Education Policy: Process, Context, and Politics (POGO 750-DL9). *This class is cross-listed.*¹ Doctoral students, masters students, and graduate certificate students are all welcome to enroll. POGO 750-DL9 is a graduate seminar that will provide an introduction to the study of education policy in the US. We will examine education policy decision-making at the local, state, and national levels and its impact on schools, students, and the public. This class will also introduce students to some of the methodological tools that education policy researchers use to analyze and evaluate education policies and programs. Most class sessions will include an in-class data analysis exercise in which we explore a contemporary education policy issue, helping students to develop and refine a skill set for future coursework and careers. No prior experience in data analysis, statistics, or econometrics is required. (Instructor: David Houston; dhousto@gmu.edu)
2. Higher Education Policy (POGO 750-015). This course examines current higher education policy issues, developments, trends and debates at the federal and state level, with a focus on enabling students to understand real-world policymaking perspectives and to think critically about the challenges and opportunities facing the field today. In particular, we will examine issues such as postsecondary affordability, equity, quality, and accountability, and consider the role of advocacy groups, ideology and research in shaping and advancing policy agendas. The course also explores important connections between K-12 and higher education and discusses their impact.
(Instructor: Anne Holton; aholton2@gmu.edu)
3. Conflict and Consensus: Education, Interest Groups and Advocacy (EDPO 603) / School Reform in the United States: Politics and Policies (POGO 750-DL1). *This class is cross-listed.*¹ Doctoral students, masters students, and graduate certificate students are all welcome to enroll. POGO 750-DL1 is a graduate seminar that offers an in-depth introduction to the study of the politics of education. Topics will include (but are not limited to): the multiple and often contradictory goals of education, measuring school quality, school choice, racial segregation, competing interest groups, school board politics, and public opinion. Students will engage with major theoretical contributions from the discipline of political science to help make sense of contemporary developments in education reform. (Instructor: David Houston; dhousto@gmu.edu)
4. Social Science Research & Education Policy (POGO 750-015). *This class is cross-listed.*¹ This seminar focuses on the research base used to support education policy actions. Students will identify and critically review research for selected K-12 and higher education policy issues and through their analysis determine the strength of the undergirding evidence. In this course, students will: (a) demonstrate the ability to critique education research articles, especially those from education policy journals (e.g., *Educational Researcher*, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*), (b) objectively analyze policy options and determine what research would be necessary to support their claims; (c) identify

¹ Please email the instructor if you have questions about which section of the course is appropriate for your academic program of study.

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gaps in the evidence undergirding education policy options; and (d) understand and explain why certain education policy decisions have not had the desired outcome. This course will be delivered using a seminar/lecture format. (*Instructor:* Matthew P. Steinberg; msteinb6@gmu.edu)

5. Teacher Development & Education Policy (POGO 750-016). *This class is cross-listed.*¹ This seminar focuses on the impact of policy actions at the local, state, and national levels on teacher preparation and continuing professional development. In this course, students will: (a) demonstrate a detailed and sophisticated understanding of major policy issues in teacher education and development; (b) analyze and describe the legal, political, and social forces that influence decision making on these issues; (c) understand and explain the intersection of teacher policy at various levels of government (local, state, federal) and empirical research; and (d) analyze existing scholarship around teacher policy and develop a new research agenda. This course will be delivered using a seminar/lecture format. (*Instructor:* Matthew P. Steinberg; msteinb6@gmu.edu)