

PhD Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy in Conflict Analysis and Resolution

The doctoral program, the first of its kind in the United States, provides advanced study for students in the fields of conflict and conflict resolution. Students are prepared for careers as researchers, theoreticians, teachers in higher

education, and as policy administrators, analysts, and consultants in both the public and private sectors. The program stresses a close link between knowledge of theory and of process in the resolution of conflict. For this, training in the methods of research and analysis is necessary and is emphasized. In addition, students are expected to obtain a background in a substantive area of conflict, usually related to the topic of the dissertation.

57 credits are required. Students must complete coursework, comprehensive exams, and be advanced to candidacy within six years of their official admission date.

Students take 6 credits of required course work:

CONF 801 Introduction

CONF 900 Integration

Foundation Courses: Students take 15 credits of required foundation coursework with student options in areas of theory, research and practice; each class is 3 credits:

Theory (6 credits)

Any 2 of the following 3 classes:

CONF 802 Theories of the Person

CONF 803 Structural Theories

CONF 804 Alternative Theoretical Foundations

Research (6 credits)

Any 2 of the following 3 classes:

CONF 811 Quantitative Foundations

CONF 812 Qualitative Foundations:
Social Sciences

CONF 813 Qualitative Foundations:
Humanities

Practice (3 credits)

1 of the 2 following classes:

CONF 713 Reflective Practice

CONF 890 Applied Practice & Theory

Specialization Courses: Students take 9 credits of graduate level specialization courses, evenly distributed across the areas of theory, research and practice. The doctoral coordinator must approve courses.

Elective Courses: 15 elective credits must be completed prior to comprehensive exams (credit for prior relevant graduate level degrees- including an S-CAR MS come off of the required elective credits).

Dissertation: Students are required to complete 12 combined units of **CONF 998** (Dissertation Proposal—up to 6 credits) and **CONF 999** (Dissertation Research—up to 12 credits). Students must have a signed dissertation proposal in order to register for CONF 999.

Foreign Language Requirement

All PhD students must show competence in a foreign language (a language other than the native tongue), preferably before “comps”. International students may use English as their foreign language and the TOEFL examination as a demonstration of competency.

Deadlines & Admission

Fall Admission Only: December 1st

Applications can be found online at: admissions.gmu.edu/grad.



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and Resolution

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Advancing Theory, Working for Change