

CLASS APPROACH

CPSO-3 and CPSO-4 are web-based correspondence courses, each with a dedicated instructor. CPSO-5 is an independent research project conducted by the student with individual advising by a POPP faculty member. In order to meet the needs of students and organizations, POPP can organize specific paths, such as civilian policing, elections monitoring, or humanitarian assistance.

This accelerated certificate program provides academic credentials for the busy professional and includes both classroom and web-based courses. CPSO-1 and CPSO-2 each occur in residence during either a one-week session of eight-hour days or a two-week session with four-hour days. These courses meet at the Arlington Campus of George Mason University (or at a group's location when contracted).

The CPSO is a professional certificate and students will earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs). The Registrar at George Mason University will maintain an official record of earned CEUs. These classes are not available for credit, and do not qualify individuals for student visas.

The Peace Operations Policy Program (POPP), at George Mason University's School of Public Policy, offers the certificate in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Programme of Correspondence Instruction in Peacekeeping Operations (UNITAR-POCI). This certificate is suitable for both civilian and military personnel.

The Professional Certificate in Peace and Stability Operations (CPSO) is for professionals in the field of peace and stability operations. It focuses on the most important aspects of these multi-disciplinary, inter-agency operations to develop and enhance capabilities and competencies.

INTRODUCTION

CONTACT

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PEACE OPERATIONS POLICY PROGRAM

The Peace Operations Policy Program (POPP) integrates education, research, and field application to provide students the best possible knowledge base in the theory and practice of peace operations. The program started in January 1994 with a functional approach to intervention and the challenges third parties face in trying to bring relief, security, and stability to people in crisis.

POPP views peace operations as encompassing what the US government considers stability and reconstruction operations, the UK peace support operations, NATO crisis response operations, the UN peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations, and the relief community complex humanitarian emergencies.

Students have the opportunity to learn from professionals who bring to the classroom real-world experience. Faculty members and associates conduct programs around the globe aimed at managing conflict and promoting development of governmental and civil institutions.

POPP frequently designs and hosts colloquia and roundtable discussions that bring together scholars, practitioners, and policy makers to focus on work performed in current operations or emerging issues.

POPP is part of George Mason University's prestigious School of Public Policy, one of the largest and most diverse of its kind in the United States. George Mason University is a young, vibrant institution with a reputation for innovation and excellence. There are nearly 32,000 students enrolled in more than 145 degree programs.



Professional Certificate in Peace and Stability Operations (CPSO)



School of Public Policy
Peace Operations Policy
Program

CPSO-1: Introduction and Theory of Peace and Stability Operations

Residence Course. 5.5 CEUs (55 hours)

This course examines the challenges and responsibilities facing professionals engaged in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of peace and stability operations. Students will come away with the ability to functionally design and analyze an intervention, whether to address conflict or natural disaster.

Topics include provision of humanitarian assistance; repatriation or resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons; conducting elections and building democracy; establishing the rule of law; and demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration of ex-combatants. The interplay of military, police, governmental, and nongovernmental actors will be highlighted throughout the course.

CPSO-2: Analysis for Peace and Stability Operations

Residence Course. 4.3 CEUs (43 hours)

Professionals engaged in the planning, conduct, and evaluation of peace and stability operations cannot perform their work absent an understanding of the multi-dimensional and dynamic nature of the environment in which they operate.

This course introduces the student to multiple concepts from the field of conflict analysis and resolution—both academic- and practice-oriented—to allow students to think systematically and critically about their application to our field. Students will come away with the ability to analyze significantly the conflict the intervention is to address.

CPSO-3: History of Peace and Stability Operations

Distributed Learning. 6.0 CEUs (60 hours)

This course offers a historical approach to the use of intervention to promote international peace and stability. UN peacekeeping and multinational operations, and peacebuilding missions will be examined. The professional will come away understanding the underlying structure of peace and stability operations and how these interventions have developed and changed over time.

CPSO-4: Peace and Stability Operations Leadership

Distributed Learning. 6.0 CEUs (60 hours)

This course investigates and critically analyzes the processes currently used by the international community to field, support, and lead these operations. Special focus will be paid to the leadership role—how leaders are chosen and the various methods by which they integrate the many, often competing, organizations involved in an intervention. Students will come away with the ability to contribute to the leadership of a peace and stability operation from their professional point of view, either as military or civilian leaders.

CPSO-5: Research Project in Peace and Stability Operations

External Study. 3.0 CEUs (30 hours)

A capstone paper serves as a final requirement for the certificate. Mentored by a professional in peace and stability operations, the student will conduct policy and professional research into some aspect of peace and stability operations. This course will provide the professional with the ability to conduct objective and rigorous analysis and to present findings in a significant written paper.

ADMISSIONS

Professionals seeking admittance must submit:

- Completed application form
- \$100 non-refundable fee
- A Curriculum Vitae or resume
- One example of writing and research skills (1,250 word minimum)
- Two references from professionals in the field (one must be from a supervisor)
- An original, five-page essay on a topic in the field of peace and stability operations
- Non-native English speakers must demonstrate English proficiency with a minimum TOEFL score of 88 on the iBT, 230 on the computer test, 570 on the paper test, or 450 on the SAT verbal.

Applicants must submit completed applications 30 days prior to the intended CPSO-1 start date as listed at <http://popp.gmu.edu>.

SCHEDULE

Students will take CPSO-1 and CPSO-2 in residence, either at Arlington or at another location if offered under contract. CPSO-1 is a pre-requisite. Students should take CPSO-3 and CPSO-4 any time within a year of completion of CPSO-1. You may not register for CPSO-5 until you have completed the four previous courses, and you must complete all coursework within two years of taking CPSO-1.

The POPP website, <http://popp.gmu.edu>, lists current scheduled offerings of CPSO-1 and CPSO-2, and sample schedules for your consideration.

EXPENSES

The tuition for the program is \$1250 per course, for a total of \$6250 for the certificate; tuition includes all books and fees. Discounts are available when registering for the entire certificate program, or through organizational contracts. Any travel, lodging, or incidental expenses will be borne by the student separately. You must register for each class independently and sequentially.