Choosing Your First Semester Courses

How many credits should I take? Nine hours is considered a full time course load for graduate students. It is suggested students take 9 or 10 hours during their first semester at the Elliott School. International students and those receiving fellowships are required to maintain full time enrollment through completion of their academic program.

Completing your program: Full-time MA students take between nine and twelve hours to complete the 40 hour program in four semesters. Other students may wish to tailor their schedules as follows:

- MIPP students take 12 or 15 credits to complete the program in two semesters.
- Students employed in full time positions might consider enrolling in 6 or 7 credits. The minimum enrollment allowed for financial assistance eligibility is 5 credits.
- Certificate students intending to finish the Graduate Certificate in one year should enroll in nine credits per semester.

Graduate level courses at GW are numbered 6000 and higher (e.g. IAEFF 6118). Elliott School Professional Skills Courses are one credit courses numbered IAEFF 6502-6504 (please note: a maximum of 4 skills are permitted to be used toward all Master’s degrees).

Register for at least two core courses, if your program includes a core field, or core courses within a concentration/specialized field.

- Note: Core courses in the International Affairs program (excluding the Cornerstone IAEFF 6101) are offered fall and spring terms, while core courses in other programs may be offered in fall or spring term.

If you need to fulfill prerequisites or plan to continue language study, register for those courses first. The space remaining in your schedule can be devoted to courses in the core field/s.

Sample course selections are included here for consideration. Keep in mind there are many course combinations which are appropriate for your first semester. The options presented here reflect one of many possible combinations.
Full-Time Course Suggestions
(These suggestions assume student is starting in the fall semester. Please use the following as a guide and always refer to your program’s website for more detailed information on curriculum requirements and course sequencing.)

MA – Asian Studies:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/asian-studies/curriculum
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Specialization Course (3 credits)

MA – European and Eurasian Studies:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/european-and-eurasian-studies/curriculum
IAFF 6321 – Cornerstone on Europe and Eurasia (3 credits – Required)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Skills Course (1 credit)

MA – Global Communication:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/academics/graduate/global-communication/curriculum
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Specialization Course (3 credits)
Skills Course (1 credit)

MA – International Affairs:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/international-affairs-masters/curriculum
IAFF 6101 – IA Cornerstone (3 credits)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course or Major Field Course (3 credits)
Skills Course (1 credit)

MA – International Development Studies:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/international-development-studies/curriculum
IAFF 6121 – IDS Cornerstone (3 credits – Required)
ECON 6250 – Survey of Economic Development (3 credits)
Research Methods Course or Concentration Course (3 credits)

MA – International Science and Technology Policy:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/international-science-and-technology-policy/curriculum
IAFF 6141 – ISTP Cornerstone Course (3 credits)
Analytical Policy Course
Concentration Course
MA – International Trade and Investment Policy:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/international-trade-investment-policy/curriculum
ECON 6283 – Survey of International Trade Theory & Policy (3 credits – Required)
ECON 6284 – Survey of International Macroeconomic/Financial Theory (3 credits – Required)
Quantitative Methods Course (3 credits)
Skills Course (1 credit)

MA – Latin America and Hemispheric Studies:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/latin-american-studies/curriculum
IAFF 6341 – LAHSP Cornerstone (3 credits)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field or Specialized Field Course (3 credits)

MA – Middle East Studies:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/middle-east-studies/curriculum
IAFF 6361 – MES Cornerstone (1 credit)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Professional Field Course (3 credits)

MA – Security Policy Studies:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/security-policy-studies/curriculum
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course or Specialized Field Course (3 credits)
Skills Course (1 credit)

Master of International Policy and Practice:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/international-policy-and-practice/curriculum
IAFF 6211 – MIPP Seminar (3 credits)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course or Elective Course (3 credits)

Master of International Studies:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/international-studies-masters/curriculum
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course or Major Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course or Major Field Course (3 credits)

Graduate Certificate:
http://elliott.gwu.edu/graduate-certificates
Core Field Course (3 credits – if part of curriculum)
Targeted Course (3 credits)
Targeted Course (3 credits)