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:

• Students employed in full-time positions might consider enrolling in 6 or 7 credits. The minimum enrollment allowed for financial assistance eligibility is 4.5 credits.
• Full-time MIPP students take between 9-12 credits per semester to complete the 27-credit program in one year including summer.

Graduate level courses at GW are numbered 6000 and higher (e.g. IAFF 6118). Elliott School Professional Skills Courses are one-credit courses numbered IAFF 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 fall-only Cornerstone (IAFF 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:
https://elliott.gwu.edu/asian-studies-program-study
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Specialization Course (3 credits)

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

MA – Global Communication:
https://elliott.gwu.edu/global-communication-program-study
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course or Specialization Course (3 credits)
Skills Course (1 credit)

MA – International Affairs:
https://elliott.gwu.edu/international-affairs-program-study
IAFF 6101 – IA Cornerstone (3 credits)
Core Field Course (3 credits)
Core Field Course or Concentration Course (3 credits)
Skills Course (1 credit)

MA – International Development Studies:
https://elliott.gwu.edu/international-development-studies-program-study
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 Economic 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)
Core Course (3 credits)

MA – International Science and Technology Policy:
https://elliott.gwu.edu/international-science-and-technology-policy-program-study
IAFF 6141 – ISTP Cornerstone Course (3 credits)
Analytical Policy Course (3 credits)
Concentration Course (3 credits)
MA - Latin America and Hemispheric Studies:  
https://elliott.gwu.edu/latin-american-and-hemispheric-studies-program-study  
IAFF 6341 – LAHSP Cornerstone (3 credits)  
Core Field Course (3 credits)  
Core Field or Research Methods or Specialized Field Course (3 credits)

MA - Middle East Studies:  
https://elliott.gwu.edu/middle-east-studies-program-study  
IAFF 6361 – MES Cornerstone (3 credits)  
Core Field Course (3 credits)  
Core Field Course or Professional Specialization Field Course (3 credits)  
Skills Course (1 credit)

MA - Security Policy Studies:  
https://elliott.gwu.edu/security-policy-studies-program-study  
Core Field Course – International Security (3 credits)  
Concentration Field Course (3 credits)  
Concentration Field Course or Tool Course (3 credits)  
Skills Course (1 credit)

Master of International Policy and Practice:  
https://elliott.gwu.edu/international-policy-and-practice-program-study  
IAFF 6211 - MIPP Leadership Practicum (3 credits)  
Core Field Course (3 credits)  
Core Field Course or Specialization/Elective Course (3 credits)

Master of International Policy and Practice ONLINE:  
https://elliott.gwu.edu/international-policy-and-practice-program-study  
IAFF 6212 - Strategy and Leadership (3 credits)  
IAFF 6216 Economic Tools for Global Policy (3 credits)  
Specialization/Elective Course (3 credits)

Master of International Studies:  
https://elliott.gwu.edu/international-studies-program-study  
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)