

Ph.D in
Conflict Analysis and Resolution
and
M.S. in
Conflict Management



Center for Conflict Analysis
and Resolution



George Mason University

Ph.D in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and M.S. in Conflict Management

George Mason University

George Mason University's Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution offers the **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)** degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and the **Master of Science (M.S.)** degree in Conflict Management. Both degree programs are the **first** of their kind in the United States, and both rest securely on the mission of the Center: to advance the understanding and resolution of significant and persistent human conflicts among individuals, groups, communities, identity groups, and nations.

Enhancing the degree programs are three additional components of the Center: **research and publication, a clinical service program, and an outreach component.**

Major **research** interests include the study of deep-rooted conflicts and their resolution; the exploration of conditions attracting parties to the negotiation table; the role of third parties in dispute resolution; and the testing of a variety of conflict intervention methods in a range of community, national, and international settings.

A **clinical program** is offered through the Conflict Clinic, Inc., Center faculty, and Senior Associates.

In short, the program is training the first advanced professionals in this emerging field, those who will develop and apply new understandings of the origins, dynamics, and resolution of conflict.

Master's Program

The master's program, begun in 1982, trains students to be practitioners with a thorough grounding in both theory and practice. In this two-year curriculum, students study the theory, methods, and ethical perspectives of the field, and then apply this knowledge in laboratory/simulation courses and in the field internship. Internships are contracted with agencies in the Washington area, including the Conflict Clinic, Inc. Graduates of the program currently work in a variety of settings where conflict resolution is useful: businesses, government agencies, religious groups, court systems, educational institutions, and conflict resolution consulting firms. Specific roles they have fulfilled include: mediator, arbitrator, negotiator, human resource developer, administrator, teacher, and trainer.

Program Requirements

Master's Degree (48 semester credits):

- CONF 501 – Introduction to Conflict Resolution (3)
- CONF 601 – Theories of Conflict and Conflict Resolution (3)
- CONF 602 – Third Party Roles, Resources and Ethics (3)
- CONF 603 – War, Violence and Conflict Resolution (3)
- CONF 610 – Philosophy and Methods of Conflict Research I (3)
- CONF 613 – Laboratory and Simulation I: Interpersonal and Intergroup Conflict (3)
- CONF 617 – Philosophy and Methods of Conflict Research II (3)
- CONF 620 – Law and Jurisprudence (3)
- CONF 621 – Ethnic and Cultural Factors in Conflict Resolution (3)
- CONF 623 – Laboratory and Simulation II: Community and Organizational Conflicts (3)
- CONF 633 – Laboratory and Simulation III: International Conflict (3)
- CONF 635 – Structural Sources of Conflict (3)
- CONF 642 – Integration of Theory and Process (3)
- CONF 694 – Internship (3)
- Electives – two courses from various graduate programs in the University, or CONF 695 and CONF 697:
 - CONF 695 – Special Topics in Conflict and Conflict Resolution (3)
 - CONF 697 – Directed

Faculty from Other Disciplines

Kevin Avruch, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego, Associate Professor of Anthropology: cross-cultural aspects of conflict resolution, ethnicity, religion.

Debra Bergoffen, Ph.D., Georgetown University, Professor of Philosophy: ethics and conflict, nuclear deterrence.

Peter Black, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego, Associate Professor of Anthropology: culture and conflict, politics, Western Pacific peoples.

Benjamin Broome, Ph.D., University of Kansas, Associate Professor of Communication: interpersonal and intercultural communication.

Tom Burns, Ph.D., Stanford University, Clarence J. Robinson Professor of Sociology: social theory, methodology, political structures and conflict resolution.

Robert Clark, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, Professor of Government and Politics: ethnic conflicts, language right disputes.

Tom Dietz, Ph.D., University of California, Davis, Associate Professor of Sociology: environmental mediation, methodology.

Joseph Fisher, Ph.D., Harvard University, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Political Economy: political economy, legislative structures.

Theodore Gessner, Ph.D., University of Maryland, Associate Professor of Psychology: organizational conflict, social psychology.

Harold Gortner, Ph.D., Indiana University, Associate Professor of Public Administration: public administration, organizational conflict.

Lois Horton, Ph.D., Brandeis University,

Outreach to the community is accomplished through the publication of books and articles, public lectures, conferences, and special briefings on the theory and practice of conflict resolution. In addition, the Center collaborates on projects with other academic programs.

Associated with the Center are three of the major **organizations** that promote and apply conflict resolution principles. The **Conflict Clinic**, noted above, acts as a third party to identify conflicts of important public significance, assess their potential for resolution, and, where appropriate, offer resolution services to the disputants. The **Consortium on Peace Research, Education, and Development (COPRED)** is an association that links peace researchers and educators, peace activists, and conflict resolution practitioners. And, the **National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution (NCPDR)** offers conferences and workshops for practitioners in the field.

The Center is located in a growing and innovative university near Washington, D.C. Together with its affiliated organizations, plus a **Faculty Advisory Committee** and a community **Advisory Board**, it is a leader in developing the field of peacemaking and conflict resolution.

Doctoral Program

The doctoral program, beginning in the fall of 1988, provides advanced training for students in the theory of conflict and conflict resolution. Students are prepared to qualify as researchers, theoreticians, and teachers in higher education, and as policy administrators and analysts in both the public and private sectors. The doctoral program stresses:

- Knowledge of theory and methods and their interrelationship;
- Background in a substantive area of conflict (e.g., family, community, legal, international); and
- Familiarity with current processes of conflict resolution.

Doctoral Degree (78 semester credits, at least 36 taken at the doctoral level):

- CONF 701 – Proseminar in Conflict Resolution: A Survey of the Field (3)
- CONF 711 – Advanced Quantitative Research Methods in Conflict Resolution (3)
- CONF 712 – Advanced Qualitative Research Methods in Conflict Resolution (3)
- CONF 801 – Integrating Theory and Method in Conflict Resolution (3)
- Electives – four courses in a substantive area (e.g., Family, Organizational Behavior, Community, Racial and Ethnic Behavior, Ecology, International Relations, Legal System) (12)
- Comprehensive Examination: theory and methods
- Comprehensive Examination: substantive area
- Examination: foreign language
- CONF 999 – Dissertation Research (12)

Students who complete the M.S. in Conflict Management degree at George Mason are awarded 42 credits toward the required total of 78. Those entering the program with an alternative master's degree must take a minimum of 21 credits in the M.S. program: CONF 601, 602, 613, 623, 633, 642, and 694 (see below)—unless waivers are given by their faculty advisor and the Director of the program. In addition, these students must demonstrate competence in social statistics, and in qualitative and quantitative research methods, either through previous course work, tests of competency, or completion of the relevant M.S. courses (CONF 610 and CONF 617) before being admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D.

Heading and Research (3)

Conflict Resolution Faculty and Staff

The Center offers world-class expertise in conflict analysis and resolution. There are six **Core Faculty** members who teach in both the doctoral and master's programs, and a number of **Faculty from Other Disciplines** who may teach courses in the programs from time to time or who serve on the Faculty Advisory Council. In addition, the Center enjoys access to several **Senior Associates** (widely recognized contributors to the field who consult with the Center), and to the three affiliated organizations, whose **Directors and Key Staff** are listed below.

Core Faculty

John W. Burton, Ph.D., Sc.D., University of London, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Conflict Resolution: deep-rooted conflict, generic conflict resolution theory, international facilitation.

James H. Laue, Ph.D., Harvard University, Vernon M. and Minnie I. Lynch Chair in Conflict Resolution: ethics of third party intervention, community, public policy mediation.

Christopher R. Mitchell, Ph.D., University of London, Professor of Conflict Resolution and International Relations: structure of conflict, research methods, international facilitation.

Richard E. Rubenstein, J.D., Harvard University, Professor of Conflict Resolution and Public Affairs: political violence, terrorism, law and dispute resolution.

Dennis Sandole, Ph.D., University of Strathclyde (Scotland), Associate Professor of Government and Politics: attitude change and generic theory.

Joseph A. Scimecca, Ph.D., New York University, Professor of Conflict Resolution and Sociology; Director, Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution: conflict theory, humanist sociology.

Associate Professor of Sociology: race, ethnicity, and conflict resolution.

Jack Levy, Ph.D., University of Southern California, Associate Professor of Education: intercultural disputes, conflict resolution in the schools.

John Paden, Ph.D., Harvard University, Clarence J. Robinson Professor of International Studies: cross-cultural relations, issues of national integration in Africa.

Victoria Rader, Ph.D., University of Chicago, Associate Professor of Sociology: community organization, war and conflict.

Karen Rosenblum, Ph.D., University of Colorado, Associate Professor of Sociology: family conflict.

Anita Taylor, Ph.D., University of Missouri, Columbia, Professor of Communication: communication and interpersonal conflict.

Roger Wilkins, J. D., University of Michigan, Clarence J. Robinson Professor of History and American Culture: race relations, public policy, American culture, journalism.

Senior Associates

Thomas Colosi, B. S., Cornell University, Vice President of National Affairs, American Arbitration Association: labor relations, mediation, arbitration.

Juergen Dedring, Ph.D., Harvard University, Senior Political Affairs Officer, United Nations; Adjunct Professor, Long Island University: international negotiation.

John W. McDonald, J. D., University of Illinois, Adjunct Professor of Law, George Washington University; U. S. Ambassador (ret.): track two diplomacy, international facilitation.

Directors and Key Staff of Affiliated Organizations

Frank Blechman, B.A., University of Virginia, Associate, Conflict Clinic, Inc.: public policy mediation, community organization.

Maire A. Dugan, Ph.D., Syracuse University, Director, Consortium on Peace Research, Education, and Development (COPRED): conflict resolution, peace studies.

John Murray, J. D., University of Iowa, President, Conflict Clinic, Inc.; Visiting Professor of Conflict Resolution: law and conflict resolution, public policy mediation.

William Potapchuk, B. A., Case Western Reserve University, Associate Director, Conflict Clinic, Inc.: environmental and public policy mediation, conflict resolution training.

Joel Stronberg, J. D., Northwestern University, Director, National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution (NCPCR): conflict resolution, public policy facilitation.

Admission Requirements

In addition to meeting all GMU Graduate School requirements for admission, an applicant to either the Ph.D. or M.S. program must submit: (1) all undergraduate and graduate school transcripts; (2) GRE verbal and quantitative scores, from within the past seven years; (3) three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a faculty member in the applicant's undergraduate or graduate program; and

(4) a brief essay written by the applicant stating his or her reasons for seeking admission to the program. Applicants who have earned an MBA may substitute the GMAT for the GRE scores, and those who have attained a law degree may substitute the LSAT. Background courses in the social sciences, as well as prior work experience, are recommended. A personal interview may be required by the Admissions Committee.

Students may enroll in the programs on a full-time or a part-time basis. Because these are professional programs, applicants should not expect to substitute transfer credit for a course or a particular degree requirement.

Deadlines

Doctoral Degree: The deadline for doctoral applications for the 1988-89 academic year is **July 1**. Students are accepted only for the fall semester.

Master's Degree: The deadline for the fall semester, 1988 is **July 1**, and the spring semester, 1989 is **November 1**.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available through graduate assistantships, University Fellowships, and various forms of grants, loans, or employment. For information, contact the Center (graduate assistantships, University fellowships) and the Financial Aid Office (other forms of assistance). The application deadline for the financial aid given by the Center is

July 1 for the fall semester, 1988, and for aid given by the Financial Aid Office, **May 1**. All courses in the M. S. program are offered between 4:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, enabling students to take advantage of outside employment opportunities.

Admissions Procedure

Applications may be obtained from:

Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

George Mason University
4400 University Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(703) 323-2038

When completed, return with \$15 fee to:

Admissions Office
Graduate Study
117 Finley Building
George Mason University
4400 University Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(703) 323-2100

4400 University Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-4444

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