



2021-2022

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
ELECTION INFORMATION

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER CANDIDACY INFORMATION PACKET

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# 2021-2022 CANDIDATE GUIDE

## About the Graduate and Professional Student Association

The purpose of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) is to establish a forum through which graduate and professional students are able to address issues, give graduate students a chance to advocate for the greater good, enable graduate students to grow professionally and socialize with one another, and create a stronger graduate community that promotes personal and academic success. The goal of GAPSA is to bridge the gap between faculty and graduate students, build a stronger connection between University Life and graduate students, conduct professional development programs for graduate students, create social outlets for graduate students, build the strength of the graduate community, enhance the graduate experience, and increase Mason's competitive edge.

## Structure

The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) comprises only one elected governing body, known as the Executive Board, which consists of the President, the Executive Vice President, the Vice Presidents of Regional Campuses, and the Director of Communications. GAPSA's Executive Board is responsible for the general operation of the organization and for being the collective voice of all graduate and professional students.

## Executive Officer Position Descriptions

Summaries of the responsibilities of the Executive Officer positions follow. Additional responsibilities are outlined in the [GAPSA Constitution and Bylaws](#).

### President

The President is responsible for overseeing all aspects of GAPSA. The President shall preside over and set the agenda for all Association meetings. The President may only vote in the case of a tie.

- The President shall be elected by the entire electorate and is responsible for overseeing all aspects of GAPSA.
- It is highly recommended that the President be based on Fairfax Campus at least part of the time due to the volume of meetings that take place on Fairfax Campus including, but not limited to, meeting with George Mason University's Vice President of University Life, Associate Provost for Graduate Education, and the advisers to GAPSA, and all-day Board of Visitors meetings, Graduate Council meetings, search committee meetings, and University committee meetings.
- The President shall act as liaison to the Student Government and Faculty Senate.
- The President shall chair both the Executive Board and General Assembly by presiding over both meetings and setting the agendas.
- The President shall be the voting student representative to the Graduate Council.
- The President has veto power over all resolutions passed by the General Assembly. All resolutions must be signed or vetoed by the President.
- The President shall only cast a vote in the case of a split body.

- The President is responsible for meeting with the Executive Officers and advisers to GAPSA on a regular basis.
- The President will be offered a half-time graduate professional assistantship (GPA) with the expectation that they will work 10 hours/week on average. The President must be a full-time graduate or professional student in a degree-seeking program in order to accept the assistantship.

### **Executive Vice President**

The Executive Vice President (EVP) shall maintain the records of the Association and support the President in the administration of the Association. The EVP shall act in official capacity on behalf of the President in the absence of the President and shall hold a voting seat in the General Assembly, unless chairing. It is highly recommended that the EVP be based on Fairfax Campus. The EVP is responsible for meeting with the Director of Graduate Student Life and other advisors to GAPSA.

- The EVP shall be elected by the entire electorate.
- The EVP shall maintain the records of the Association and support the President in the administration of the Association.
- The EVP shall be the non-voting student representative to the Graduate Council.
- The EVP shall be parliamentarian and secretary of the Executive Board and the General Assembly.
- The EVP shall hold a voting seat in the General Assembly.
- The EVP shall work on general programming for GAPSA population as a whole.
- The EVP is responsible for attending regular (i.e., biweekly) meetings with the Executive Board.
- The EVP shall meet regularly with the GAPSA advisers.

### **Vice Presidents of Regional Campuses**

The Vice Presidents of Regional Campuses shall represent the interests of the graduate and professional students from one of GMU's regional campuses and shall be based at the regional campus they represent by being a student in one of the graduate or professional programs housed on that regional campus or working on that campus. There shall be a Vice President of Arlington Campus, Vice President of Fairfax Campus, and Vice President of Science and Technology Campus. The Vice Presidents of Regional Campuses are responsible for meeting with the Director of Graduate Student Life and other advisors to GAPSA and representatives from University Life for their campus, and are voting members of GAPSA's General Assembly.

- The Vice Presidents shall hold voting seats in the General Assembly.
- The Vice Presidents shall hold town halls or other programs to understand and address the needs of the graduate and professional student population at their regional campus and to help set the agenda for the General Assembly.
- The Vice Presidents shall be responsible for all communication for their respective campus.
- The Vice President of each campus is responsible for attending regular (i.e., biweekly) meetings with the Executive Board.
- The Vice Presidents shall meet regularly with the GAPSA advisers.

## Director of Communications

The Director of Communications (hereafter called “DC”) shall act as the external communication officer for the Association and lead efforts for engaging graduate and professional students through communications.

- The DC shall be elected by the entire electorate.
- The DC shall be responsible for all marketing communications.
- The DC shall be responsible for the Association’s regular newsletter.
- The DC shall hold a voting seat in the General Assembly.
- The DC shall meet regularly with the GAPSA advisers.
- The DC is responsible for attending regular (i.e., biweekly) meetings with the Executive Board.

## IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Applications Available	Tuesday, March 16, 2021
Applications Due	Friday, April 9, 2021, 5:00 PM
Review of Applications and Qualifications	Monday April 12 through Wednesday April 14, 2021
Announcement of Candidates and General Campaigning	Thursday, April 15, 2021: Candidates will be announced and general campaigning begins and will continue through April 30, 2021
Election Voting Opens	Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 12:00 AM
Election Voting Closes	Friday, April 30, 2021, 11:59 PM
Election Results Announced	Wednesday, May 5, 2021

## CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

1. Candidates may not engage in “negative” campaigning. All campaigning should be conducted in a positive and professional manner. Negative campaigning includes slander, vandalism or removal of opponent materials, and any action deemed, by the current GAPSA executive board, to attack a candidate in a personal and/or false manner.
2. All fliers and posters may ONLY be posted on public bulletin boards on campus and must follow university posting guidelines. Candidates may not post on glass, directly onto walls, on doors, outdoors, etc.
3. Candidates may not disrupt any classes, on-campus events or activities when campaigning, unless approved by the professor or event organizer.
4. All campaign materials must be removed from campus(es) by Friday, May 7, 2021. This includes all posters, fliers, and other printed materials.

5. All questions about acceptable campaign practices should be addressed to Austin A. Deray, at [aderay@gmu.edu](mailto:aderay@gmu.edu). If you are unsure if something is acceptable, you are strongly encouraged to ask before you act.

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

This year, candidates will participate in a Meet the Candidates session, hosted by the current Executive Board for Mason's graduate and professional student populations. This meeting will be recorded and will appear on the election website and GAPSA communications. This recording may be used by candidates in their own marketing and campaigning. Date will be selected upon review of candidates' availability. Candidates whose eligibility have been confirmed will receive an email from Austin A. Deray, Graduate Professional Assistant for Graduate Student Life and advisor to GAPSA, and will be notified of the date and time of the Meet the Candidates event.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can I run for more than one position?

A: No, since there are only 6 elected positions.

2. Can Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Program (BAM) students run for a position?

A: Only students who have fully matriculated into a graduate or professional degree program (after the bachelor's degree is conferred) may run. BAM students who are taking graduate courses before receiving their bachelor's degree are not eligible to run for a GAPSA officer position.

3. Can I still be a part of this organization if I don't run for an elected position?

A: Yes, GAPSA is meant as an outlet to voice concerns, gather together as graduate students, and network with each other. We need and want as many grad students as would like to participate in the Assembly and on various committees.

4. Can I still run for a position if I am a part-time student?

A: Yes, GAPSA is open to all degree-seeking graduate and professional students, whether they are full-time or part-time students. The President must be a full-time graduate student in a degree-seeking program in order to accept the graduate professional assistantship offered.

5. When does the term of office begin and end for each position?

A: All elected offices hold a one-year term, beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

6. How much time will holding a leadership position take?

A: The amount of time spent in a leadership position and devoted to the organization is dependent upon the position. The following are minimum estimates of the time required by each position:

- President: minimum of 10 hours per week on average during the academic year (AY).
- Executive Vice President: 7 hours per week on average during the AY

- Vice Presidents of Regional Campuses: 5 hours per week on average during the AY
- Director of Communications: 5 hours per week on average during the AY

7. How will officers spend their time?

A: Officers will be expected to attend biweekly Executive Board meetings, usually ranging from 1.5 - 2 hours; regular meetings with GAPSA advisors (1-2 hours/month); monthly General Assembly meetings, usually lasting 1.5 hours; committee meetings; a transition meeting with outgoing and incoming officers; 2 all-day retreats, once during the Fall and Spring semesters; and GAPSA events. Officers should consider that commute time does not count towards the weekly average of work time.

8. Do officers of GAPSA receive compensation?

A: The President will be offered a part-time graduate professional assistantship with a stipend and tuition benefits. The other GAPSA officers will receive scholarships, based on meeting expectations. Officers will be required to sign an agreement to terms in order to receive compensation.

9. Do I have to campaign?

A: No, that is why each applicant is asked to include a biography about themselves and a candidate statement, as well as participate in the Meet the Candidates event, to share what makes them qualified for the position so each voter can make an informed decision.

10. When is the deadline for applications?

A: Friday, April 9, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

11. How will elections be conducted?

A: GAPSA elections will take place online through the Mason 360 platform ([mason360.gmu.edu](http://mason360.gmu.edu)). Email instructions will go out to all eligible voters prior to the opening of voting.

12. When will the election take place?

A: Elections begin Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 12:00 AM, and end Friday, April 30, 2021, 11:59 PM.

13. How will I be notified of the outcome of the election?

A: Candidates will be notified whether they have or have not acquired an elected position via email. Election results will be announced to the public on the GAPSA website on Wednesday, May 5, 2021.

# CANDIDACY APPLICATION FORM

## 2021-2022 GAPSA Executive Officer Application

### PART 1: CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

G#: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Seeking: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of a specific campus, and Director of Communication)

Academic Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Program (please circle one):            Master's                            JD                            Doctoral

Expected Date of Graduation (month/year): \_\_\_\_\_

Campus where academic department is located: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus(es) where you attend classes, work, and/or reside (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

During the 2021-2022 academic year, will you be a full-time student or a part-time student? *Graduate students are considered full-time if they are enrolled in at least 9 graduate credits per semester OR hold a full-time assistantship and enrolled in at least 6 graduate credits per semester. Additional definitions available at <http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>.*

Please circle one:                            Full-time                            Part-time

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

GMU Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email (if not GMU): \_\_\_\_\_

### PART 2: ADDITIONAL REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

1. A brief biography and candidate statement about why you would be qualified for this position (no longer than 500 words in total).
2. Will you be able to meet the time commitments and expectations of the position? Describe your probable availability for the 2021-2022 academic year, as well as other on-going time commitments (e.g., classes, work, organizational involvement).

*Please submit these statements on a separate document and note that this information will be posted online to help voters make an informed decision.*

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## PART 3: ATTESTATION AND CERTIFICATION

Are you in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University? Please circle one:

Yes                      No

I hereby certify that I have read the information contained in the GAPSA Executive Officer Candidacy Packet and that I have supplied truthful information on this Candidacy Application Form and additional application materials. I also give permission to Graduate Student Life to verify my enrollment information and academic and disciplinary standing.

Candidate Certification: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications are due by Friday April 9, 2021 at 5:00 PM. Applications may be submitted by either:

- Email to [aderay@gmu.edu](mailto:aderay@gmu.edu)
- Mail or delivery to:  
Austin A. Deray  
Graduate Student Leadership and Advising, Graduate Student Life  
George Mason University  
Student Union Building I, Room 3324  
4400 University Drive, MS 2A4  
Fairfax, VA 22030

If you have questions, please contact Austin A. Deray, Graduate Student Leadership and Advising, Graduate Student Life, and advisor to GAPSA, at [aderay@gmu.edu](mailto:aderay@gmu.edu) or 703-993-5582.