

## Master of Public Policy *National Security Policy Cohort*

The Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy is the nation's only school explicitly committed to teaching both evidence-based leadership and rigorous policy analysis. We have reinvented the Master of Public Policy degree, creating a new program that better equips future leaders for the realities and possibilities of a complex, fluid world.

In the Fall of 2017, the Batten MPP will welcome its inaugural **National Security Policy (NSP) Cohort**. The unique challenges of our time require leaders who can bring imaginative thinking, problem-solving skills, and constructive dialog to the most pressing security policy issues. The Batten School's focus on leadership and practical training will equip the NSP Cohort to become the next generation of security policy innovators.

The program will consist of 12-15 scholars and national security professionals from the United States and our international partners. Over the course of the two-year program, these students will complete the Batten MPP core curriculum, which provides students with a solid foundation in the concepts, methods, and strategies of policy analysis and effective leadership. This curriculum consists of four courses in policy analysis concepts and problem-solving skills, two courses in leadership, and one course on policy context, as well as three applied and experiential learning courses building applied policy analysis skills.

In addition, students are required to take 18 additional credits in graduate elective courses to focus their studies in a policy area of their choice. **For their electives, the NSP Cohort will complete a sequence of courses on net assessment-based national security policy:**

- Year 1:
  - Introduction to National Security and Strategy
  - Principles of Net Assessment
- Year 2:
  - Technologies of national security (e.g. nuclear, conventional, or cyber).
  - National security threats (e.g. terrorism, human security, or war).

The NSP Cohort will engage closely with the National Security Policy Center (*see next page*). In addition to training and studying with other rising intelligence and security professionals, we will introduce students to current and retired members of the U.S. security community. This will yield opportunities for focused discussions and site visits that will extend student's knowledge of and relationships in the intelligence and national security communities in the greater Washington, D.C. area.

*For additional information about the 2017 NSP Cohort, please contact Jeff Chidester, Director of Outreach and Engagement, at [jchidester@virginia.edu](mailto:jchidester@virginia.edu).*

## The National Security Policy Center

In 2017, the Batten School will launch its sixth research and engagement center – the **National Security Policy Center (NSPC)**. The NSPC will place the University of Virginia at the center of training and engagement on pressing issues in national security and military affairs.

The Center will focus on building “constructive counterparts” trained in net assessment methodologies to facilitate the informed communication and strategic clarity that can contribute to both international peace and successful U.S. foreign policy.

### *Why the NSPC?*

At present, America’s national security community is underserved by the academy. Mutual distrust and an inability to communicate in a common vocabulary characterize the relationship. Prior attempts at meaningful, institutionalized national security policy cooperation between the leading American universities and government have, for the most part, either withered over time or failed to take flight in the first place. The Batten School, through the work of the NSPC, will help bridge this divide.

### *Leading an Impact Agenda*

In pursuit of this objective, the Center will focus on three distinct, but connected, activities:

- **Training:** The Batten School will attract and train early career and mid-level professionals from the defense and intelligence communities in the U.S. and abroad through a new national security policy cohort within the Batten MPP degree program [see previous page]. The NSPC will also provide short courses, exercises, simulations, and other experiential activities to enhance the skills of participants.
- **Research:** The NSPC will be located on UVA’s Central Grounds and serve as the University’s hub of activity for scholarship on national security and military affairs. It will support leading-edge research in national security policy from distinguished scholars and senior practitioners.
- **Policy Engagement:** The Center will interact with current and former government officials on key challenges in national security policy. This will include regular engagement with federal offices around Charlottesville, such as the National Ground Intelligence Center and the Defense Intelligence Agency, as well as relevant agencies in Northern Virginia and Washington, DC.

### *A Global Reach*

The NSPC will be the locus of activity for Batten’s National Security Policy Cohort – a group of 12-15 promising young scholars who will complete a series of courses in national security policy as part of their MPP. The Batten School will recruit security officials and officers from within the U.S. and among nations with whom we have reached articulation agreements to enter this cohort. This form of international diversity, both in terms of nationality and professional norms, will present a unique educational opportunity for these students, while dramatically enhancing the experience of all students enrolled at the Batten School.

*For more information about the Center, please contact Professor Phil Potter, NSPC Director, at [pbp2s@virginia.edu](mailto:pbp2s@virginia.edu).*