



2016 Washington Policy Seminar Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) *Updated March 2, 2016*

OVERVIEW INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

Q: Where and when is the 2016 Washington Policy Seminar taking place?

A: The 2016 WPS will begin on Wednesday, April 13 at 1 pm and will conclude on Saturday, April 16 at 12 pm. WPS will take place at the [Fairmont Washington, DC Georgetown Hotel](#), located at 2401 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037. The Fairmont Hotel is a 10-minute walk from the Foggy Bottom-GWU Metro station (blue, orange, and silver lines) and a 15-minute walk from the Dupont Circle Metro station (red line).

Q: How can I register for WPS?

A: WPS registration will take place online. You should have received the registration link in an email on November 2. Please register for WPS by January 1.

Q: What if I have dietary restrictions or special accommodations?

A: You will be able to note dietary restrictions and/or special accommodations on the WPS registration form.

Q: When do I check-in for WPS?

A: Fellows can check in for WPS at the Fairmont Hotel on Wednesday, April 13 between 10:30 am and 1 pm to receive their nametags, conference program, and other materials. Check-in will likely be busiest between 12:30-1 pm, so we encourage Fellows to check in earlier during the check-in period if possible. Please note that all Fellows must check in for their hotel reservations separately at the front desk in the lobby.

If you are arriving after WPS check-in time or on a later date, you can still receive your materials at the registration/information desk, which will be located outside of the Grand Ballroom throughout the conference.

Q: What is the dress code?

A: The dress code for WPS is business casual. Please keep in mind that the meeting rooms are often kept cooler than normal room temperature.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Q: How can I reserve a hotel room at the Fairmont Hotel for WPS?

A: We have a room block at the Fairmont Hotel for EPFP Fellows and coordinators attending WPS. You will receive the reservation link for our room block in your registration confirmation email. Please note that the Fairmont Hotel room block is very near full capacity. Rooms in our Fairmont Hotel room block are at a group rate of \$259 per night, plus tax, with upgraded room options for a higher rate (per hotel availability). We strongly encourage Fellows to consider sharing rooms.

Q: What if I am unable to reserve a room in the Fairmont Hotel room block?

A: We suggest looking online for the best available hotel room rates and reserving a room as soon as possible. April is the busiest time of year in DC and is peak season for both conferences and tourism, so hotels around the city tend to fill up quickly and nightly rates can change daily.

We've compiled a [list of nearby hotels](#) in close walking proximity to the Fairmont Hotel and their best available nightly rates as of November 10. Links and phone numbers for each hotel are also provided. We encourage you to contact hotels directly and make reservations as soon as possible.

Travel websites like [Kayak](#), [Priceline](#), [Hotels.com](#), and [Orbitz](#) are a good place to look for best available rates. If you are amenable to staying outside the immediate vicinity of the Fairmont Hotel, hotel rates in other neighborhoods of Washington, DC, as well as Arlington, VA, and Bethesda, MD, may be lower than those in more central DC neighborhoods.

You might also check back with the Fairmont Hotel occasionally as we may have a few cancellations in our block; however, this is not guaranteed and rooms and room rates are subject to availability once the block is full. If the Fairmont Hotel room block is full, we highly encourage you to reserve a room elsewhere to guarantee you have lodging during WPS.

OPTIONAL WPS ACTIVITIES

Q: What are the pre- and post-conference activities and how can I register for them?

A: We will be offering optional pre-conference site visits on Wednesday, April 13, from 10-11:30 am, and post-conference DC memorial tours on Saturday, April 16, from 1:30-3 pm. We will be offering the following pre- and post-conference activities.

Wednesday, April 13, 10-11:30 am

Pre Conference Site Visits

- American Enterprise Institute (AEI) – think tank
- Community College Preparatory Academy – adult education public charter school
- Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) – national member organization
- National Education Association (NEA) – teachers' union
- National League of Cities (NLC) – national membership organization
- Thurgood Marshall Academy – public charter school
- U.S. Department of Education – federal agency

Saturday, April 16, 1:30-3 pm

Post-Conference Memorial Tours

- Kennedy Center
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Franklin Roosevelt Memorial

More information about the site visits and memorial tours can be found in this [information packet](#). The registration link will be emailed to all Fellows. Registration will close on Friday, March 11.



Q: How can I get tickets to see the Capitol Steps show?

A: The [Capitol Steps](#) is a satirical political revue that has been performing skits and songs about the latest political news for more than 30 years. The Capitol Steps have public performances on Friday nights in Washington, DC, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

A limited number of tickets have been reserved for EPFP Fellows for the public performance on Friday, April 15 from 7:30-9:30 pm. More information about the Capitol Steps performance can be found in this [information packet](#). The registration link will be emailed to all Fellows. Registration will close on Friday, March 11.

VISITING WASHINGTON, DC

Q: What restaurants and bars are near the Fairmont Hotel?

A: You can find a list of restaurants and bars within walking distance of the Fairmont Hotel [here](#).

Q: What is public transportation like in DC?

A: The [Metro](#) is the subway system in DC and is perhaps the best way to get around the city efficiently and inexpensively. If you will be using the Metro, it's recommended that you purchase a refillable SmarTrip card at any Metro station. Metro fares vary depending on your destination. The closest Metro stations to the Fairmont Hotel are Foggy Bottom-GWU (orange, blue, silver lines) and Dupont Circle (red line).

The [DC Circulator](#) is a bus service with routes to many popular areas around the city, including the National Mall, Georgetown, Union Station, Capitol Hill, and Nationals Park. You can use a SmarTrip card or cash to pay the \$1 fare.

Taxis are very common in DC and tend to be easily hailed on most main streets and at hotels, Union Station, and airports. Most DC taxis are red. Ridesharing programs like [Uber](#) and [Lyft](#) are also widely used in DC.

Q: What will the weather be like in April?

A: April weather in DC is typically mild with temperatures in the 60s and low 70s. Rain is common in the spring, so it is recommended that you bring a small umbrella or light raincoat when you are outside. It tends to be cooler at night so it is you may consider dressing in layers, especially if you will be out and about for extended periods of time.

Q: I'm interested in sightseeing around DC. Where can I find information about tours and landmarks?

A: Visit [Washington.org](#), DC's official visitor website, for more information about sightseeing. Please note that April is prime tourist season in DC and the city is very busy throughout the month, particularly if the cherry blossoms are in bloom. Activities requiring reservations or tickets may have limited availability and/or higher prices during this time of year, so it is recommended to plan activities early.

If you are interested in scheduling a tour of the U.S. Capitol, please contact the office of your local U.S. Representative.



Education Policy Fellowship Program

Q: Will the cherry blossoms be in bloom during WPS?

A: The peak bloom for the cherry blossoms that line the Tidal Basin changes each year depending on weather, but peak bloom is typically in early April. To find out when peak bloom for cherry blossoms is expected this year, please visit the National Cherry Blossom Festival's [Bloom Watch page](#).